FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN DELIVERS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO NATION

PY260027 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Christmas message delivered by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin on 24 December in Buenos Aires -- recorded]

[Text] I wanted to talk to you on the night we celebrate the birth of the Son of God, knowing that for all Argentines this is, beyond the religious celebration, a symbol of love. But before Christmas there is Advent, a period of expectation and hope. At one time we talked about the coming of life, and tonight I feel that the door of hope has been opened, and we can all see the light at the other end.

But God took on human form so that men could become participants in the divine plan. This is why Christmas means participation and reconciliation, and love is the guideline to new commitment. We Argentines can no longer live a single day without identifying ourselves with today's message; we can no longer live a single day without loving and reconciling with each other.

Christmas should be much more than a beautiful family gathering, much more than a hearty Christmas greeting. It must be a helping hand to the poor, to those who have no consolation, to those who struggle to solve great problems of poverty and misery. This is why tonight I want to reach those sectors, those who suffer the most, to convey to them my friendship and commitment to work so that we can all achieve the life we deserve, spiritually and materially.

To those who are concerned with the ups and downs of democracy, I promise order, but with freedom. To those who are impatient to obtain their legitimate claims immediately, I promise justice and perseverance. To those who want to continue to raise their banners, even if they are not ours, I promise that no one will be forced to lower them, because we all will, together, carry on with the task of ensuring well-being and peaceful coexistence. I call on the young or those who feel young in spirit to plan and to build in a better way. To those who work, whether with their hands or minds, I say again that they are the trustees of an important responsibility because they are the only guarantee for progress and the only guarantee for dignity.

To those who are anxiously awaiting the fulfillment of a claim, a return to the country, a reparation, I invite them to think of a future of peace, a future we have begun to build not only with effort, but with the firm determination not to fail. Each of us now has the responsibility to build the country we deserve, beginning today and thinking of the future.

It is my greatest wish on this Christmas to be able to listen to that hopeful choir which lights up the night, singing: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earch and good will to men, in Argentina and the Americas. Let it be so on this Christmas eve of hope, which will bring us a better year, a better life. An embrace to all.

OFFICIAL 'CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC' OVER BEAGLE

PY262126 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1055 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Dec (NA) -- Hugo Gobbi, Foreign Ministry secretary for special affairs, said yesterday that "there are fewer differences" with Chile over the Beagle dispute.

Upon arriving from the Vatican, where he held several meetings with representatives of Pope John Paul II, Gobbi said that "the area of disagreement is now considerably smaller than it was initially, but I am still cautiously optimistic."

"Any agreement or settlement," he remarked, "involves concessions by both sides." Therefore, he concluded, "we cannot expect results that are a hundred percent satisfactory."

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM U.S.

PY231740 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez yesterday returned to Argentina, and described his week-long visit to the United States as a success, announcing that it can now be taken for granted that the country's foreign debt will be renegotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and private creditors.

Garcia Vazquez also revealed that the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank had promised to "accelerate" the extension of an 800 million dollar loan. However, he was less optimistic about the final 900 million dollars of a 1,500 million dollar IMF interim loan, commenting: "It is not so simple."

The Central Bank president refused to be drawn into commenting on whether any previous senior economic officials, including former Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz, had committed "irregularities," such as including private debts in the foreign debt.

Garcia Vazquez also confirmed that he had informed various bankers of the Radical government's position on the foreign debt, i.e., that Argentina will be unable to meet any payment obligations until June 30, and claimed that there was a certain amount of understanding for this position. He also pointed out that Argentina was one of the few countries in the world with a favorable balance of trade, and the debt problem could only, therefore, have been caused by mismanagement.

COURT FORBIDS DEPARTURE OF MILITARY OFFICERS

PY241540 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1450 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Dec (DYN) -- It has been learned from reliable sources at Ezeiza Airport that the San Martin Federal Court has forbidden the departure from the country of approximately 20 high-ranking military and police officers who are currently facing trial for alleged violations of human rights, including former President Reynaldo Bignone.

This decision was made by San Martin Federal Judge Luis Cordoba, who is hearing the case involving the disappearance of Alfredo Antonio Giorgi, technician of the National Institute of Industrial Technology, on 27 November 1978.

The federal court's decision also affects former I Corps Commander General Guillermo Suarez Mason, and Colonel Federico Minicucci, who, after holding other government posts since 1976, had been Entre Rios police chief before the constitutional government came to power.

Suarez Mason and Minicucci were questioned separately for almost 5 hours on Thursday by Judge Cordoba regarding the "Giorgi case." At the end of that questioning, the judge explained that the decision was made because he considered the two military officers "accused, but not indicted," and noted the officers had not been sworn in to testify as yet.

The court's radiogram, addressed to all immigration offices throughout the country and to the federal police and other security organization posts in border areas, states that the measure is intended to "guarantee the presence in the country" of those persons listed in the message.

The other military and police officers affected by this measure are former Military Institutes Commander General Omar Riveros, former Buenos Aires Province Police Chief General Ramon Camps, and former Deputy Chief of the Buenos Aires Police Colonel Ernesto Guillermo Trozt, who have been mentioned in the case involving the disappearance of Giorgi.

Of these individuals, it has been learned unofficially that Camps is in Punta del Este, Uruguay, where he went on Tuesday from the metropolitan airport after having granted an interview to Channel 13 television. Camps left the country before Cordoba's decision to issue the radiogram, which he did on Thursday after the questioning of Minicucci and Suarez Mason.

The other military chiefs affected by the court's decision, with the military ranks they held when Giorgi was kidnapped, are: General Juan Carlos Olivere Rovere; Colonel Roberto Rualles; Colonel Enrique Rospide; Colonel Alberto Balin; a colonel whose surname is Ferro; the then Major Mohamed Ali Sineildin, who commanded the 25th Infantry Regiment with the rank of lieutenant colonel during the war with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands; and Captain Siro Ahumada.

The court decision also prevents the departure from the country of Federal Police Inspector Alfredo Aitin and four civilians: Enrique Sturzenbum, Jose Luis Paqualini, Carlos Ottosanis, and Jose Alcides Rodriguez, who had reportedly been high-ranking INTI officials when Giorgi was kidnapped.

The case involving the kidnapping of Giorgi began in 1978, when his father, Osvaldo Giorgi, brought it to the provincial court, which then referred it to the federal court. That court took some steps, but without resolving the case up to this moment.

After several interim steps, the case is now before the San Martin Federal Court, where Judge Cordoba will reportedly call the military commanders who may be involved in the kidnapping case, including a colonel named Roberto Rualde, as lawyer Marcelo Parrilli explained on Thursday. Parrilli is one of the lawyers for the Giorgi family.

Report on San Martin Trial

PY231805 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Generals Guillermo Suarez Mason, former head of the Army 1st Corps, and Federico Minicucci appeared before San Martin Federal Judge Luis Angel Cordoba yesterday to testify on their alleged involvement in the disappearance of Alfredo Giorgi, a researcher at the National Industrial Technology Institute (INTI).

Giorgi was abducted from the INTI on November 27, 1978 by a group of armed men.

Lawyer Horacio Mendez Carrera and members of the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) filed a writ last week requesting the arrest of Suarez Mason, Minicucci, former President Reynaldo Bignone, INTI officials, and other military officers in connection with the case.

The charges included information from a 1980 Amnesty International report, according to which two former Argentine political prisoners had seen Giorgi at an illegal detention centre known as "Olimpo," which Cordoba has discovered may have been located at what is now a federal police facility in the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Floresta.

The judge confirmed that he had banned several Army officers, including the two he questioned yesterday, from leaving the country unless they obtain a court order from him.

Minicucci, who has been accused by Osvaldo Giorgi -- the missing man's father -- of having commanded "Olimpo," testified for two hours yesterday morning and left the courthouse sweat-soaked and disheveled. When journalists tried to interview him, he replied: "I want to leave, I want to leave," as he walked towards his Ford Falcon automobile.

Suarez Mason, for his part, was questioned by the judge for about three hours. Attorney Horacio Mendez Carreras, who was present at the hearing, said Suarez Mason admitted the people may have disappeared within the area under the 1st Corps' jurisdiction, but that his command had not been involved in any such cases. When queried by the judge on the use of non-conventional methods to fight leftwing terrorism, Suarez Mason declined to answer.

Marcelo Parrili, a CELS lawyer also present at the hearing, said Suarez Mason had emphasized that he and his men had only carried out "specific instructions" from their superiors. He also declined to comment on those "instructions."

According to Mendez Carreras, Suarez Mason said he did not remember "many things" which happened in Argentina in 1976, but towards the end of his statements stressed that the "Olimpo" detention centre mentioned in the Amnesty report and in the charges against him was not under his corps' jurisdiction during the so-called "dirty war" against leftwing terrorism.

Parrili, for his part, reported that the former chief said he knew of many operations carried out by his men in the fight, but emphasized that all detained people were handed over to military and civilian courts. Suarez Mason said that "in many cases, what happened to them (the prisoners after they were transferred) did not become clear," Parrili reported.

The two lawyers said Judge Cordoba will now probably summon Colonel Roberto Rualdez, who was stationed at the 1st Corps at the time of Giorgi's abduction.

Both Suarez Mason and Minicucci are being defended by lawyer Andres Murutian, who also has former Army Commander-in-Chief-Cristino Nicolaides as his client in the case of the disappearance of communist Ines Olleros.

ALFONSIN APPROVES ARMY STAFF APPOINTMENTS

PY262055 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1841 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Dec (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has appointed members of the Army staff.

They include: Brigadier General Ricardo Gustavo Pianta, appointed Army deputy chief of staff; Brigadier General Braulio Sanchez Avalos, appointed Army instruction inspector; Brigadier General Mario Aguado Benitez, appoined commander of the V Corps (based in Bahia Blanca); Brigadier General Pedro Pablo Mansilla, appointed commander of the III Corps (Cordoba); Brigadier General Hector Luis Rios Erenu, appointed commander of the II Corps (Rosario); Brigadier General Guillermo Bernardo Fonseca, appointed commander of the I Corps.

Also in accordance with the proposals made by the Army chief of staff to Defense Minister Raul Borras, the following brigadier generals have been appointed to the Army staff: Victor Pino, appoined head of G-1 (Personnel); Raul Federico Schirmer, appoined head of G-2 (Intelligence); Federico Minicucci, appointed head of G-3 (Operations); Vicente Rogelio Belli appointed head of G-4 (Logistics); Juan Carlos Benito, appointed commander of logistics; Enrique Juan Ottino, appointed under secretary general; and Rodolfo Chinni, appointed general auditing director.

It has been reported that Brigadier General Mario Leonico Cammisa and Brigadier General Calros Horacio Cerda are at the service and discretion of the Defense Ministry, and that Brigadier General Mario Jaime Sanchez, who was the director of the Military Academy, was transferred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It has also been reported that General Arguindegui approved the requests for retirement submitted by Brigadier General Teofilo Saa, who was commander of the infantry brigade in Comodoro Rivadavia; Brigadier General Alberto Ramon Schollaert, who was commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade in La Plata; Brigadier General Mario Oscar Davico, who was commander of the Second Armored Cavalry Brigade in Parana; and Brigadier General Carlos Jesus Cornejo, who was artillery commander.

It has been learned that Gen Arguindegui is closely studying future Army appointments to the positions of Army corps deputy chiefs and chiefs of staff, brigade commanders, and lower echelon commanders, appointments which depend a great deal on the Senate's approval of the proposals submitted by Defense Minister Raul Borras.

SUPREME COURT MEMBERS, ATTORNEY GENERAL SWORN IN

PY240018 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1755 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin installed the Supreme Court justices and the attorney general during a ceremony held at noon today in the hearings room on the fourth floor of the courthouse.

Joined by Vice President Victor Martinez, Alfonsin administered the oath to justices Jose Severo Caballero, Enrique Santiago Petracchi, Genaro Carrio, Carlos Santiago Fayt, and Augusto Cesar Belluscio, and to Attorney General Juan Octavio Gauna.

SENATE REPEALS AMNESTY LAW, APPROVES BONUS HIKE

PY231700 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0925 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (TELAM) -- In a session held yesterday, the national Sentate approved one bill that repealed the so-called Pacification Law 22,924, and another that allows an increase of the annual bonus.

Once commissions were organized, several matters were read by the secretary, and then forwarded to the respective working commissions. As soon as the senators from the different blocs justified their votes and those of the blocs they represent, the Constitutional Affairs Commission approved the bill submitted by the executive branch amending Law 22,924. This is the first law approved by the Senate in this period.

FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER, PRESIDENT ACQUITTED

PY262128 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1125 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Dec (DYN) -- Reliable sources report that the Federal Appellate Court has acquitted former President Jorge Videla and former Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy on the grounds that "no crimes were committed" in the case brought against them by La Rioja Governor Carlos Menem. Menem had been banished to the border town of Las Lomitas on charges of having engaged in political activities that were forbidden under the state of siege.

The Appellate Court thereby reversed a lower court decision issued by Federal Judge Jose Dibur, who ruled that Videla and Harguindeguy should be prosecuted. After listening to the depositions of the two former officials, the judge determined that there were no grounds for prosecuting Videla.

'NO CLANDESTINE DETENTION CENTERS' FOUND

PY231752 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Dec 83 p 9

[Text] (DYN) -- "There are no clandestine detention centres in Argentina," a high-ranking government source said yesterday, adding that "apparently no places have been found in the country where there might be live missing people..."

The source said this was the conclusion arrived at following a thorough investigation which started when President Raul Alfonsin took office two weeks ago.

However, he did not dismiss the possibility that "some missing person hidden in a place which we could not find might eventually turn up alive."

The source specified that a search of strong boxes left behind by military authorities at the Interior Ministry had also proved unsuccessful. "We hoped to find at least something," he said, "but there really is nothing, only some files on missing persons, which were made on the basis of their relatives' reports."

The government also conducted an unsuccessful investigation into the whereabouts of children who disappeared when their parents were kidnapped, but none of the public and private records examined turned up any useful investigation, the source concluded.

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ON DOMESTIC POLICY

PY261510 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0119 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Bolivian President Hernan Siles Suazo's Christmas message to the nation from Government House in La Paz on 24 December -- live]

[Text] [In progress] deep resentments and divisions which only detract from and undermine the collective effort for the common good. We Bolivians have managed to complete the initial phases of the democratic government by overcoming great difficulties thanks to the conscientiousness demonstrated by the people who confronted the bankrupted situation inherited from the past, the provocative actions of groups who want to turn back the clock, the irresponsible demagoguery of those who want power for power's sake, and the natural disasters which aggravated the crisis. The tone of the political debate, however, has not matched the generosity and greatness of the people's attitude. Eagerness for immediate gains, disregard for national interests which have been subjected to the interests of individuals or unviable radical groups of no consequence in decision-making, and the lack of punishment for the plunderers of the nation who were thus emboldened have all contributed to a situation of instability and inconsistency which is at odds with the external image of Bolivian democracy and detracts from the credibility our peaceful and hopeful effort deserves abroad.

In the face of a government which owns no newspapers, an ill-meaning campaign emphasizing the negative aspects of the process while minimizing or even ignoring its positive aspects has been launched. Thus a climate of uncertainty has been created, undermining our short-term prospects, and even worse, raising questions about our future. This campaign has gone so far as to propose the removal of the constitutional president who has been elected by the Bolivian people three consecutive times, despite terrorism, constant threat, and the prolonged and shameless interruption of the process which was reinstituted in 1973. This is a suicidal attempt, because taking the popular mandate away from the President will only set off a chain reaction affecting all the institutional organs that have been reinstated by the democratic efforts of all the Bolivian people.

We are aware of this possibility, and we have found that misunderstanding among civilians has only created political pretexts for repeated military interventions, thus setting aside political organizations that are representative of the Bolivian people, their spiritual strength, their national conscientiousness, and their permanent sacrifice in defense of the dignity which has been denied them so many times, of their freedom which has cost so much blood, and of their well-deserved economic and social progress.

Mindful of the deep aspirations of the Bolivian people, and in full agreement with the Bolivian Episcopate, the government invites all political, labor, and civic organizations that are interested in the continuity of institutional order to work together attaining primary objectives for strengthening the nation and the state. Such primary objectives are: confronting the crisis; fighting drugtrafficking; rationally utilizing our natural resources; providing for the population's basic needs; developing our energy resources; improving public health, housing and education; and encouraging agricultural and industrial activities.

These objectives are to be pursued through a pluralistic and patriotic participation, with a determination to move the country forward and to demonstrate that the common effort through institutional, political, labor, and business organizations can not only overcome the crisis, but can also definitively consolidate and strengthen democracy as well.

This is the intended meaning and content of the patriotic and democratic convergence which the government proposes. Let us pay tribute to Christianity's greatest event with a generous acceptance of this proposal aimed at guaranteeing for our children the free, just, and dignified nation for which our predecessors struggled and for which all those of us who have faith in Bolivia will continue to struggle. Thank you very much.

FIGUEIREDO DISCUSSES COOPERATION, ECONOMIC ISSUES

PM231640 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 17 Dec 83 pp 14-15 (Supplement)

[Interview with Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo, by Augusto de Carvalho; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] EXPRESSO: Mr President, you have just returned from an official visit to Guinea-Bissau, where you stressed Brazil's desire to step up cooperation with that country, as is the case with other countries whose official language is Portuguese. For its part, Portugal asserts that it gives priority to its foreign policy toward the same countries.

Do you believe a broad understanding is possible among all Portuguese speakers, to make possible the formation of a pressure group seeking the solution of the major world problems? In your opinion, how could or should such an understanding be reached?

Joao Figueiredo: Indeed, the purpose of my visit to Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde was basically to confirm Brazil's desire to maintain increasingly close and fruitful relations with those countries and with Africa as a whole.

The existence of a shared language undoubtedly facilitates the materialization of joint projects, and it is natural for Brazil, like Portugal, to try to intensify and diversify lines of dialogue and cooperation with its African brothers. A shared heritage of cooperation and ways of understanding the international system, which will, of course, evolve and improve, are gradually emerging between our countries.

Within this process, the determination and political will of each sovereign state is the most important aspect. If the seven countries' individual wills coincide, they would naturally tend to initiate proposals which, being submitted jointly, could obviously have a greater impact than if put forward in isolation.

I do not want to predict now the stages in this process of rapprochement. There are many forms of joint action. We who share a language will pursue the form that best serves us and that best serves the community of nations.

EXPRESSO: The summit of Portuguese-speaking African countries is to be held in Guinea-Bissau, and will on the 17th [month not specified]. Does Brazil intend to ask to attend such meetings? If so, in what capacity would it like to be represented?

Joao Figueiredo: As I said at every opportunity during my visit to Africa, Brazil supports the efforts of the five African countries whose official language is Portuguese to remain coordinated. Various factors, including historical and party factors, tend to bring these countries closer together. Together, they can also adopt a more vigorous stance vis-a-vis the international community. It is in this spirit that Brazil follows and applauds the holding of the summits. We are not requesting direct participation or representation in an observer capacity because we believe that the initiative for extending or not extending invitations to meetings lies with member countries. Thus far, the five countries' decision has been to maintain the strictly African character of the summits. We respect their decision. If they were to decide to broaden participation in the meetings, we would of course examine the initiative very carefully.

EXPRESSO: Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama said a few days ago in Cape Verde that Portugal would support the periodic holding of institutionalized meetings at regular intervals, involving Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, and Portugal. What is your opinion in this regard, as it affects Brazil?

Joao Figueiredo: Brazil is examining Foreign Minister Jaime Gama's ideas with the greatest interest. We know that the proposal will be examined at the next Bissau summit, and it is important to await the African opinion.

The institutionalization of meetings of the seven countries, via standing committees, is an idea that has merit, but perhaps it still requires further elaboration and reflection. There are many approaches to this kind of matter, and Brazil will follow it with the utmost attention and care. We have invariably encouraged mechanisms that facilitate cooperation, which is more necessary than ever in a world marked by so many forms of tension and conflict.

EXPRESSO: Would it be possible to coordinate our policies on problems such as Namibian independence, disarmament, South Africa's interference in Angola and Mozambique, and so forth?

Joao Figueiredo: In general, the positions of Brazil, Portugal, and the African countries whose official language is Portuguese are very similar on the issues you indicate. The delegations of the seven countries to multilateral forums maintain frequent contacts. Thus there is already some coordination. This is useful, and must undoubtedly be maintained whenever possible.

EXPRESSO: Mr President, it was precisely in Africa that you raised the issue of the election of the Brazilian president by direct suffrage. Do you believe that this idea, which has now been set in motion, could materialize in the next elections?

Joao Figueiredo: I did indeed mention the subject of direct elections in our interview that I granted to the press while visiting Africa. Though I was very clear and explicit in my remarks, taking care to draw a distinction between matters of personal conviction and matters of political opportuneness, some interpretations of my opinions may have been distorted.

Demands for universal suffrage are legitimate, primarily because this electoral alternative has not been removed from the Brazilian political tradition. Demands for the maintenance of indirect elections, which also have positive aspects and do not distort the democratic process, are equally legitimate.

Therefore, with regard to the next elections, we have constitutional rules specifying the indirect form for presidential elections and a pre-chosen electoral college. At the same time, a debate is being held within the parties and society in general on the possibility of altering the rules by means of constitutional reform.

I do not believe that a reform of constitutional rules will have become politically opportune by the next elections.

EXPRESSO: Still, with regard to direct elections, there seems to be some conflict within the military. Could you comment on this?

Joao Figueiredo: No military opposition to direct elections has been expressed by the Armed Forces as an institution. It is an essentially political process that will be resolved through the mechanisms and institutions responsible for resolving and handling political matters. The constitutional role of the Armed Forces is different, and must always be preserved.

EXPRESSO: With regard to relations with Portugal, it has been said that they are being approached more on the sentimental level than on the practical level. Mr President, what is your opinion in this regard?

Joao Figueiredo: The undeniable ties of friendship that bind the Brazilian and Portuguese peoples are reflected in practice in a broad range of joint achievements.

In the cultural field in particular, there are innumerable initiatives under the existing agreement, organized by the joint committee. There is a continuous exchange of artists, teachers, scientists, specialists, and students, which brings the nations increasingly closer through the constant spreading of mutual characteristics and traits. The media in particular have contributed a great deal to better understanding between the fraternal peoples, through history and culture.

From the political viewpoint, the Brazilian and Portuguese foreign ministers have had relatively frequent consultations, which have enabled them to review aspects of bilateral and multilateral relations. These meetings reveal the shared basic values on which Brazil and Portugal have built their respective foreign policies.

The two countries' shared interests are shown by the significant exchanges of visits at all levels, during which areas suitable for cooperation are identified. I will cite as an example the recent visits to Brazil by the minister of justice and secretary of state for employment and to Portugal by our secretary of state for culture, minister of labor, and many others.

I myself had the pleasure of visiting Portugal in 1981, returning President Ramalho Eanes' visit to Brazil. There is no doubt that this contact between both governments' officials is facilitating a growing understanding and better coordination of efforts for mutual benefit. In the economic field, promising prospects for joint undertakings in the fields of aeronautics, shipbuilding, and services, among other areas, are emerging.

Only in the trade sector, I would say, have results not yet reached a level in line with the potential of the Portuguese and Brazilian markets. Once international economic and financial difficulties have been surmounted, however, I am sure that both countries' businessmen will succeed inconverting the solid heritage that they share and the frankest good will that exists on both governments' part into profitable cooperation.

EXPRESSO: Brazil's inflation is already running at over 200 percent. How will it be stemmed?

Joao Figueiredo: In 1983 inflation was disastrously affectedby the loss of almost 5 million tons of grain -- equivalent to 10 percent of the Brazilian harvest -- as a result of the continuous rain and flooding in the southern part of the country, the richest area as far as agriculture and stockraising are concerned. After 45 days of torrential rain, crops were flattened, roads were made impassable, corn stockpiles were lost, and towns and land were submerged.

Even in the first half of the year, we experienced unusual inflationary pressure. The disastrous weather in the south completed the deplorable picture definitively in 1983. We must not forget that Brazil's poorest region, the northeast, was already entering its fifth consecutive year of drought, and we were depending on the abundant harvests of the south to alleviate the problem.

As a result of the collapse of supplies from the south, agricultural prices soared, and we have had cases in which prices of food products increased 250 percent [duas vezes e meia] over a short period.

The government has been striving to contain industrial prices, with some success, and has carried out a program for the gradual elimination of wheat and fuel subsidies as a measure to cut the public deficit.

In view of the losses in the agricultural sector, we are faced with the following choice: either imposing rigid controls on food prices, or enduring the impact of inflation.

We prefer to leave agricultural prices free to avoid discouraging the sowing of new crops. Fortunately, farmers have not lost heart, and have very courageously faced the task of reconstructing their houses, replacing their livestock, and returning to farming, with the expectation of good prices in the coming months.

We are paying a high price, because food price increases penalize the population, particularly in the urban centers. But I believe that it was the right decision, because the expectation of abundant harvests in the coming months (March and April) is beginning to be reflected in the market. In November, for the first time in several months, we had a lower level of pressure on food prices. I am confident that we can achieve a relative stability in the prices of basic goods, and thus a considerably lower inflation rate, in 1984.

EXPRESSO: Brazil has had recourse to the IMF because of its external debt amounting to approximately $100 billion. How can the IMF help surmount the present economic problems?

Joao Figueiredo: In the past, the IMF has cooperated with Brazil at critical times by granting loans with easy terms so that we could overcome problems in our balance of payments. Nowadays, the world is experiencing an unprecedented financial crisis, and the IMF's cooperation has become much more necessary for the developing countries dependent on oil imports.

The IMF's financial aid is justified principally by Brazil's massive efforts to reform its economy and to free itself from dependence on foreign sources for its energy supply.

Now we accept a lower growth rate, and even a slight drop for 2 years, because we are concentrating virtually all our investments in a single sector -- the crucial energy sector.

Foreign savings that we would need to accelerate our development in several sectors are not yet available. We are therefore concentrating all our savings efforts precisely on the production of oil, and the creation of alternative energy sources, such as sugarcane alcohol, coal, and gas.

We have advanced a great deal, albeit with huge sacrifices, increasing oil production from 170,000 to 403,000 barrels a day, producing 100,000 barrels of alcohol a day, and replacing fuel oil with coal and gas.

When the world crisis was initiated with the explosion of oil prices, Brazil produced only one-third of its fuel requirements. In 1985, we will achieve the goal of 500,000 barrels of oil a day, which, together with alcohol, coal, and gas, will represent two-thirds of our consumption requirements. We are, therefore, approaching a situation of independence from the outside world in energy production -- a goal that can be achieved in another 3 or 4 years of hard work.

This new effort is accompanied by the efforts of international bodies and organizations, which usually financed our development plans. They agreed to extend our repayment terms, and even a 5-year waiting period, so that we can resolve our most serious payment problems.

With this kind of support, with the cooperation of the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Bank, we will soon have restored adequate circumstances for the repayment of our external debt. At the same time, we are expanding our exports and volume of trade, which will enable us to restore the country's reserves and proceed to new stages of development.

RENEWAL OF MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH U.S. REJECTED

PY231350 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] Military cooperation between Brazil and the United States was terminated long ago. The Brazilian Armed Forces have always been interested in personnel training, even during the Geisel government, when Brazil ended the 1952 military agreement. This statement was made yesterday by Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, who, although not very explicit in his statement, and using diplomatic jargon, made clear that there will be no new agreement between Brazil and the United States.

According to Saraiva Guerreiro, in the development of the war industry following the termination of the 1952 agreement, there was dire need for U.S. patents and "know-how" [in English] for industrial purposes; therefore, he stated, "we had to study the regulations and restrictions on exports of these weapons to find out whether the use of these patents was economically feasible."

This work was carried out by the military cooperation group organized during the visit of President Ronald Reagan to Brazil last year. Concrete points of cooperation in the military field were also included in the report. Saraiva Guerreiro added that Secretary of State George Shultz is expected to make a visit soon to conlude the work of these cooperation groups, including that in the military field, and to initiate formal understandings in the respective areas of common interest. He said that there is good potential to export Brazilian weapons, "not extraordinarily good as reported by the press, but not bad, from the economic standpoint." And since Brazil does not need a large amount of weapons for its own use, "our industry needs to export them to survive."

SOVIET ENVOY DISCUSSES BILATERAL TRADE, SURPLUS

PY221130 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Dec 83 p 24

[Text] Porto Alegre -- Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Chernyshev said yesterday in Porto Alegre that Brazil will once again maintain in 1983 a long-standing surplus in its trade with the USSR. Brazilian exports to the USSR will reach $500 million and Brazilian imports from the USSR will reach $300 million by 31 December. Over the past 20 years, Brazil has achieved a $3-billion surplus in its trade with the USSR. Chernyshev failed to supply figures, but he anticipated that the imbalance is likely to continue in 1984 because Brazil has had difficulties in meeting the total of Soviet export quotas.

The change of government in Argentina, said Chernyshev, will not alter the USSR trade policy toward that country. At any rate, this is what the Soviet ambassador said in Buenos Aires. This means that Brazil will not markedly increase its exports to the USSR in 1984. Nonetheless, Brazil could expand its exports to the Soviet market in the event the USSR reduces its purchases from Argentina. Leading Brazilian export products to the USSR are agricultural products, primarily soybeans and sugar.

FRENCH CULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES 20 DEC FOR VISIT

PY211153 Paris AFP in Spanish 1412 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 20 Dec 83 (AFP) -- French Culture Minister Jack Lang arrived in Rio de Janeiro today to begin an 8-day visit to Brazil.

He will be received in Brasilia by Brazilian Education Minister Esther Figueiredo Ferraz, and in Rio de Janeiro by State Governor Leonel Brizola.

Brazilian-French exchanges in the fields of movies, television, and editing are among the topics that Minister Lang will discuss.

ENERGY MINISTER DISCUSSES NUCLEAR PROJECTS

PY241325 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Dec 83 p 17

[Excerpt] The two nuclear plants in Sao Paulo (Iguape 1 and Iguape 2) will not be contracted out for construction until 1987, not 1985, as was announced last year. Meanwhile, construction of Angra 3 will begin next year. The project for production of uranium in Itataia, state of Ceara, can begin in 6 months because the French Government is interested in financing it in order to obtain part of the uranium produced. This same arrangement will be adopted in Lagoa Real, state of Bahia, where a project in which several FRG firms are interested is located.

This information was provided yesterday by Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals. According to the minister, the two nuclear plants in Sao Paulo that will be contracted out for construction in 1987 can be operational in 1994.

As for the uranium production project in Itatia, in the state of Ceara, Minister Cals said that, upon returning from Angola last week, he contacted French Government authorities in Paris, and they expressed interest in financing the project. Minister Cals proposed to the French, who accepted in principle, that they finance the project and recover the investment plus interest. However, payment will not be made in money, but in uranium ore. The same arrangement might be adopted in Lagoa Real, state of Bahia, with financing from FRG firms.

When the minister was asked if the export of uranium from Itataia and Lagoa Real to repay investments in the two projects could be criticized by some sectors of Brazilian society, Cesar Cals stated: "I can answer this. With the technology available today, uranium will only be utilized as nuclear fuel until 2040, when the technology of hydrogen reactors will be explored. It does not make sense, therefore, to keep our uranium underground while a deadline on its use is running out."

'GENERAL' AMNESTY GRANTED TO BANISHED PERSONS

PY231820 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1629 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 23 Dec (EFE) -- The military government of General Augusto Pinochet reported today that a general amnesty has been granted to those sentenced to banishment. According to the official report released by government sources, three persons are not included in this amnesty. These persons are now in Porvenir, in the extreme south of the country, and their records are now under study.

The report was released at La Moneda Palace by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Luis Simon Figueroa, who said that the measure was taken by the president for Christmas.

JARPA TO SUBMIT LEGISLATION TO FIGHT TERRORISM

PY240016 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has said that because of repeated terrorist acts it is necessary to confront this situation with special legislation. (Sonia Contreras) has more details for Radio Cooperativa.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon. Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has indicated that because of repeated terrorist acts, it is necessary to confront this situation with special legislation. He announced that he will soon submit a bill on this matter to President Pinochet. He added the objective of this new legislation is to provide greater security to people and to prevent terrorism from expanding as has happened in other countries. [end relay]

New Repression Alleged

PA241400 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Chilean Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has warned that General Augusto Pinochet's regime will study a new antiterrorist law aimed at repressing the increasing wave of protests in this southern country. Jarpa made the announcement shortly after it was learned that two Carabineros had been wounded in a shootout in downtown Santiago. A civilian security guard was killed during the incident. According to the official report, police helicopters and vehicles began a search for the attackers, who fled.

It was also learned that in the past few hours, nine bombs exploded on a railway bridge, destroying it. As a result, train service between Santiago and southern Chile was interrupted.

CARABINEROS VIOLENTLY EVICT MORE STREET VENDORS

PY232020 Paris AFP in Spanish 0350 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 22 Dec (AFP) -- The Chilean Christmas was darkened again tonight by the violence unleashed by the Carabineros militarized police against hundreds of street vendors, who were selling their products in downtown Santiago. There was a scene of panic at the Paseo Ahumada because of the sudden arrival of police to carry out another operation against the street vendors, who consist mainly of unemployed men and women of Santiago.

Using night sticks and police dogs, the Carabineros carried out unprecedentedly violent actions to evict the street vendors. Some of these people were able to flee, leaving their knick knacks behind, but others were arrested. Some pedestrians strongly repudiated the evictions and the arrests.

The Association of Santiago Merchants forcefully protested the police actions, and it rejected the use of violence to stop the proliferation of street vendors in Santiago.

According to an eyewitness, the Paseo Ahumada was left without any vendors and buyers at the end of the police operation, which lasted for several hours. The Association of Santiago Merchants remarked that violence is harmful for the people's coexistence. We are not trying to make distinctions because we cannot say that street vendors do not have the same rights as authorized merchants, considering that we are all fellow countrymen.

During the police operation, hundreds of street vendors, including many minors, tried to hide their products to prevent their seizure. However, they were detected by big and fierce dogs especially trained for operations against this illegal activity.

CARABINEROS SHOT BY UNKNOWN 'COMMANDO GROUP'

PY231344 Paris AFP in Spanish 1316 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 23 Dec (AFP)-- Two agents of the militarized Carabineros police were wounded today in Santiago when an unknown commando group shot at them, according to information released by the authorities. Helicopters and police cars immediately launched a vast operation designed to capture the assailants, one of whom, according to unconfirmed reports, was wounded as well.

Four policemen have been killed in similar actions in this capital during the last 3 months. The government claims that the killings were perpetrated by banned left-wing organizations.

Today's attack took place in northern Santiago in the same place where a Carabinero was shot to death in October.

RAILROAD SERVICE INTERRUPTED BY EXPLOSIONS

PY240042 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Railroad traffic to and from the south is normal. The general manager of the Southern Railroad has released the following communique:

Explosive devices slightly damaged track No 2 of the southern central railroad network at the (Balto) Bridge, kilometer 16, at 0430 today. Railroad traffic was thus temporarily suspended. Railroad officials visited the site of the explosions early this morning and, after evaluating the damage, authorized the resumption of railroad traffic at 1030. Therefore, the people are informed that railroad traffic to and from the south is normal. Long distance trains will leave on schedule this afternoon.

CP OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON OUSTING PINOCHET

AU221209 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 21 Dec 83 p 7

[CTK dispatch from Oporto, Portugal: "The Main Task: To Overthrow the Dictatorship"]

[Text] Oporto (CTK) -- This year has brought great qualitative and quantitative changes in the Chilean people's struggle against the fascist dictatorship. These changes represent the continuation of the struggle that began on the very first day of the coup d'etat [prevrat], a struggle that seemed hopeless for a long time. Now the protest against the regime is growing stronger from day to day, eventually leading to Pinochet's being overthrown. This was stated by Volodia Toitelboim, a member of the Central Committee's Politburo of the Communist Party of Chile, in an interview with a CTK special correspondent. Toitelboim was the Chilean Communists' representative at the 10th congress of the Communist Party of Portugal (PAP) in Oporto.

Pinochet defends himself by using the fiercest kind of repression; V. Toitelboim went on to say, pointing to the growing number of cases of arrest and torture of the regime's adversaries.

The extent of the struggle is also influenced by the economic crisis, which has further increased opposition to Pinochet. Today, only one-third of the working people have regular jobs in Chile; this is unprecedented in the world. The people have realized that the only thing they have left to lose is their voice; that is why they have taken to the streets.

In the political sphere, the opposition stretches from the leftwingers to the rightwingers. The two opposition coalitions now operating in the country -- the bourgeois Democratic Alliance (AD) and the People's Democratic Movement (MDP) -- are not, in our opinion, antagonistic; the days of national protest have proven that their joint progress is possible. The unity at the grass roots level is total. Conflicts [rozpory] continue to exist at the leadership level; they have been caused by the representatives of the Democratic Alliance, who are want to discuss problems we consider nontopical (for instance, what will happen after Pinochet, who will rule, and so forth). We are of the opinion that the future government must be broadly democratic; but at present, we consider it premature to deal with this issue. The main task at present is to overthrow the dictatorship.

As regards the military's stance: The Air Force is against the regime, and the Navy concentrates its attention on the professional tasks. The Army continues to back Pinochet, but even there, conflicts cannot be excluded.

The developments in the southern part of Latin America are greatly alarming [znepokojuji] to the United States, for which the military dictatorships are the ideal ally. Chile has a certain importance for the United States. That is why Washington has contacted Pinochet, attempting to persuade him not to become a second Somoza -- that is, to persuade him to leave sooner rather than at the very last moment, or else to partly adjust himself to the situation. But Pinochet has not understood the lesson. The activity of the Communist Party of Chile, V. Toitelboim concluded, is fully oriented toward uniting the Chilean people and the entire population against Pinochet. The Communist Party is very strong today. Together with the Christian Democrats, who in fact have become legal, the Communist Party is the strongest party.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON CONFRONTATION WITH GUERRILLAS

PA262011 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota, 26 Dec (AFP) -- Today Colombian Defense Minister General Fernando Landazabal said that it is necessary to use arms in dealing with subversion, at a time when the country is undergoing an apparent truce with the guerrilla movement.

In a Christmas and New Year's message to the Colombian people, Landazabal appealed to the Armed Forces and the police to confront the new actions that, in his opinion, the subversives will launch in 1984. The Catholic Church has appealed to both subversives and common criminals to release all kidnapped persons.

Monsignor Anibal Munoz Duque, the cardinal of Colombia, said that "nothing can contribute more to peace and progress than respect for one of life's most precious gifts: freedom."

Despite Landazabal's urging, the Colombian people have faith in conservative President Belisario Betancur's peace negotiations. When he became president on 7 August 1982, Betancur proposed peace to the guerrillas; on 20 November of the same year, he granted a general amnesty, which has been accepted by some 1,500 guerrillas. Nevertheless, the military have said that, although they respect the president's efforts, they do not support a cease-fire, and they have rejected every opportunity to establish peace talks with the guerrillas.

The military's position was reaffirmed by Landazabal in today's message, in which he said that "the Armed Forces and police represent the nation's armed branch, legitimately established in accordance with the Constitution."

"We owe loyalty to the government," Landazabal said. He also declared that Betancur's amnesty is a thing of the past. He explained that the amnesty expired on 21 November 1982 [year as received] and that all crimes committed after that date will be fought without quarter. "No matter what the price, the military forces will prevent a takeover by the rebels and will make every necessary sacrifice to maintain our current democratic system," he said.

He also vigorously defended Betancur's administration, recognizing its efforts to achieve social justice. He predicted that the traditional parties will be strengthened if democracy is defended.

In what was understood to be an invitation to the subversives, he said that new political parties could be established to represent goals that differ from traditional ones. He explained that the military forces will support the establishment of political parties that channel their efforts towards achieving power through the will of the masses rather than by intimidation, threats, or violence.

Landazabal added that the Army will continue to support the mission of the Colombian Church without reservation, and that it will promote the beneficial action of Christian doctrine in every corner of the nation.

He criticized the press, saying that the Armed Forces "are increasingly concerned at the justification for subversion offered by some of the communications media."

The official flatly rejected the existence of armed groups, saying that the military will continue to put their desire and effort to work so that peace will prevail both in the cities and in the country.

Some analysts who were consulted today said that the minister's statement could obstruct the Betancur government's peace negotiations with two of the five Colombian guerrilla groups. These negotiations, which are well advanced, involve the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the extreme leftist M-19 [19 April Movement], which have declared a cease-fire and are proposing peace talks.

EL SIGLO COLUMN ASSERTS COMMUNISTS ARE DIVIDED

PA242000 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 4

[Unattributed column: "Allusions: Division Among the Communists"]

[Text] The Colombian Communist Party also has its divisions. It is not divided in unimportant matters. It is the policy to be followed that has opened the door to discussion, which at the moment is bitter because of insults and dishonest activities, according to some members. Three party leaders from Valle have questioned the Central Executive Committee, and this committee has responded in not-too-kind terms. No comradeship here. The Valle and Cauca region has presented the problem in communist terminology this way:

"Background explanations are strictly of a political nature. The slander campaign is just a distraction, a smokescreen to prevent discussion of the essence of the problem, the real basis for the division, which speaking in clear and precise terms, arises from the fact that we, the communists from the Valle and Cauca region, assert that the only just policy that applies under the current circumstances is the promotion of a broad and profound mass struggle for a democratic opening. The central leadership, meanwhile, believes that there are conditions for extending the guerrilla movement until it becomes a power alternative. Obviously, from this point of view, the objective is not a democratic opening toward an advanced and real democracy, but a revolutionary and popular acquisition of power. This is the 'Salvadorization of the country' route proclaimed by Vieira."

Things are clear. The armed branches of the Central Executive Committee want power without considering what the Colombian people want, just as in Cuba and Nicaragua. The guerrilla movement does not give a thought to incorporating itself into civilian life, but some people still believe that the guerrillas could have political and electoral motivations.

There are more details about this fight, which affects the Colombians' march to peace and calm. We will refer to this again.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN TRADE BANK -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur has approved a law that transforms the Export Promotion Fund into the Colombian Foreign Trade Bank. The action proceeds new measures to revitalize the country's foreign trade. [Summary] [Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Dec 83 PA]

BORDER DEVELOPMENT STATUTE -- The Government issued eight legal decrees on 23 December 1983 that together comprise a border statute and serve to create four regional autonomous corporations. The corporations are the Regional Autonomous Corporations of La Guajira, North Santander, Cesar, and Putumayo. The decrees also establish an overall border development plan; provide for financial, credit, and tax incentives; and seek to promote foreign investment and tourism. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Dec 83 PA]

STROESSNER ADDRESSES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO NATION

PY261700 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1212 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Christmas message addressed to the nation by Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner on 24 December 1983, from the Palacio de Lopez -- live]

[Excerpts] With joy, the Paraguayan people are preparing to celebrate Christmas, a very happy occasion of universal importance.

The world is experiencing difficult times, but Paraguay is overcoming its problems through the efforts of its people. Our nation is increasing, and will continue to increase, production because there are favorable conditions to achieve integrated development.

The people govern through their representatives. Since we have been elected by the people, we are their representatives, and if we are to uphold democracy, we must comply with the people's decision.

There are some, however, who lack the support of the people, but who are striving to become the spokesmen of national concerns.

When someone speaks, we must ask them whom are they representing. We speak as representatives of the great Colorado Party, which obtained over 90 percent of the people's vote during exemplary elections.

We defend the principles of civilized coexistence. We do not protect criminals; we stop criminal acts. If we loosen control of criminal activity, society will be at the mercy of crime, terror, and murder. We will not permit that under any circumstances, because it is our duty as rulers to guarantee to the people their right to live in peace, without violence; in freedom -- that is, freedom for those who follow the road of law, but not for those who kill savagely and then take refuge under the banner of human rights. We cherish the laborer and those who respect their fellow human beings. A good man is a hundred times better for a government than a good law.

Corporal Alberto Anastasio Benitez Santacruz was not deprived of his freedom but rather of his life in an outrageous hanging that was executed with premeditation and treachery. But there are some who want the assassin of this innocent human being to look like a hero of the cause of freedom. In the United States, the electric chair ended the lives of two criminals a few days ago.

I beg God that the grieving mother of the murdered corporal, Dora Juliana Agusti Viuda de Benitez, will have the necessary strength to endure the torment caused by this treacherous crime, which must be condemned by anyone with an honorable conscience, and that the honorable souls of all mothers will accompany her in her suffering.

Those who believe themselves to be important persons and who take up the banner in favor of this repugnant and repulsive hangman to proselytize ridicule themselves and astonish us, but we are sure that they will be rejected by public opinion. They people are not following and will not follow those demagogues who are striving to submerge the country in the chaos and anarchy that they unfortunately had to endure for many years. When we speak, the people understand us.

Fellow countrymen: Paul VI said: The law prevails, justice develops, and freedom breathes only in an atmosphere of peace.

If this is the meaning and the importance of peace, peace is a duty. He also said that he who understands the significance of human life is bound to support peace.

Since we are deeply convinced of the significance of peace, we will not permit our peace to be threatened with provocative acts of terrorism and subversion. His Holiness Pope John Paul II has clearly and firmly expressed his ideas: Violence destroys what it tries to defend -- the dignity, life, and freedom of man. Violence is a crime against mankind because it destroys the true structure of society.

We will continue to reject violence, because it represents evil and we are in favor of what is good and of peace, which is the patrimony of the Paraguayan people.

The people must ponder the painful consequences that the fratricidal confrontations have had for the country. I need only mention the gruesome murders committed during the 1922-1923 "revolution," when the bodies of our fellow countrymen were seen lying in the streets of Asuncion, in the Plaza Uruguaya and in other parts of the city. Their bodies were later transported on carts and buried together in ditches. This was a terrifying scene.

We recall the years during which the country was involved in an international war, and the time when our former enemy was being held back in the vicinity of Estero Patino. The confrontation reduced the population growth rate, and the Paraguayan people were infamously labeled as lazy by the liberals, when in truth the country's bosses at that time did not secure the minimal conditions for our noble and intelligent people to work for the benefit of the country.

Those were times in which someone could be persecuted even for speaking Guarani, our melodious native language, which is the epitome of our national identity.

Lessons must be learned from the many deplorable incidents that brought sorrow and poverty upon the country.

Many have no personal knowledge of these incidents, but many do know about them very well, and vainly want the country to return to those hours of sorrow, bloodshed, and misery.

I have always said and reiterated that a week government cannot defend democracy. Therefore, we stand firmly on the alert to keep extremists from threatening our democratic Constitution and from preventing the rule of the 1967 Constitution, which was freely written by the four legally organized and recognized political parties. We have security, guarantees, progress, and respect for human rights.

No guarantee offered by democratic state and the rule of law is lacking in our country. We never use power to sow hatred, but rather to promote the happiness of the Paraguayan family. We offer security for meetings held under legal provisions by opposition parties. Let no one demand unrestricted freedom, because no one is entitled to excesses.

The nation's Constitution must be respected by all the country's inhabitants, regardless of their level of rank, whether they are workers, farmers, government employees, or professionals of whatever sector, whether they are militarymen or clergymen who must set an example by not saying one thing and doing another. Adherence to the Constitution is the hallmark of a good citizen. It is not ethical, nor it it legally admissible for somone to claim his rights while not abiding by the duties imposed by law. Article 71 of the Constitution is quite clear: Laws can be criticized freely, but no one can call for disobedience under their provisions.

We have never and will never yield in our determination to safeguard public order and peace. If the people gave us their free and decided vote in the February 1983 elections, it was because they wanted us to continue strengthening a democracy without communism, to act firmly against those who, by striving to undermine the prevailing atmosphere of understanding and true national unity, show that they are neither patriots nor Christians.

The great majority of people do not approve of and will never approve a return to the chaos and disagreement that for so many decades submerged our country in sorrow, uncertainty, backwardness, and grief.

Our democracy is the pride of every honest Paraguayan. It is based on honest, multiparty elections and on all the institutions characteristic of a state of law, with respect for human dignity and fervent service in the cause of social justice.

I am committed to continue promoting a nationalistic and democratic policy based on the intrinsic qualities of the thinking and feeling of Paraguayans who are loyal to the heritage of Marshal Francisco Solano Lopez.

We have achieved much in peace and in democracy, and, thanks to that peace and democracy, we will achieve more progress and happiness in 1984 for all homes throughout the fatherland.

I thank the Almighty God for His protection and pray that He will continue blessing our glorious and noble nation, and I promise to never disappoint the confidence which the great Paraguayan people have placed in me.

United, in a brotherly and patriotic manner, we will continue working for the greatness of the Paraguayan Republic.

POLICE RELEASE JOURNALIST RUIZ NESTOSA

PY241635 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Jesus Ruiz Nestosa has been released today. Executives of the newspaper ABC COLOR reported that the journalist was released this morning.

COALITION DISSOLUTION, NEW CABINET CHANGES

PY261749 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2215 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 25 Dec (EFE) -- Today Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry announced that after 4 years, the coalition between his party, the Popular Action Party (AP), and the Popular Christian Party (PPC), will dissolve.

The president made this statement during a press conference held at Government House. Noting that this is "the end of a very cordial cooperation," Belaunde added that the PPC has the right "to recover its freedom" in view of the general elections scheduled for 1985, which will mark the end of Belaunde's term. He added that by July 1984 his government will have to confront "a new situation" and that it must "reorganize" itself for the last stage of his administration which "will demand" other men to replace those who now are leaving the government. Moreover, Belaunde said that within a few days he will make at the most three changes in his Cabinet, but he implied that Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor will not be replaced.

PRIME MINISTER REJECTS SHINING PATH TRUCE

PY241430 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca has announced that the Shining Path request for a truce has been confirmed. A message has been found with the following words written on it: We will leave you in peace for 2 years. Pervovich also stated that the Armed Forces and the police will continue their antiterrorist operations in the convulsed Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac Departments.

[Begin Percovich recording] Regarding the white flags that have appeared at certain places in Ayacucho Department, we have only the following report: In Huanta Province it was learned on 20 December that on the hills at Luricocha subversive elements continued to raise white flags and to spread pamphlets with the following words written on them: We will leave you in peace for 2 years. Shining Path Peruvian Communist Party. [end recording]

Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana has said that there can be no truce between terrorist elements and the state, and that it has not yet been proven if the truce request is in accordance with the will of all Shining Path members or if it reflects a split in the organization. After the Cabinet meeting, Schwalb said that this does not mean that the government should not be ready to do everything possible to pacify the country.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] In case there is a real intention of pacification on the part of the subversives, what would the reaction or answer be from the Peruvian Government?

[Schwalb] In the first place, I would like the event to take place first in order to learn how far it goes. Anyway, it can be said that the country is not interested in truces, but a final end to this situation. There can be a truce between two belligerent parties, between two armies, but there cannot be a truce between a group of terrorists and the Peruvian state. This does not mean that the government should not be ready to do what it can to pacify the country, but I repeat, we are not interested in a truce. What is this truce? To stop fighting for 2 years in order to recover and then go back to fighting again? The country is not interested in that. [end recording]

SHINING PATH TERRORISM REPORTED IN SEVERAL TOWNS

PA252020 Paris AFP in Spanish 1828 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 25 Dec (AFP) -- Three peasant leaders were murdered Friday by a Shining Path group in the main park of Huacamocha, 520 km northeast of Lima, Peruvian police sources reported today.

The peasant leaders, who were shot to death after a brief "summary trial" in the public park in the presence of many peasants, were members of the El Triunfo Social Interest Agricultural Society of Hua mocha, Libertad Department, Otuzco Province.

Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry said yesterday that the government would not be insensitive to an act of prudence by the terrorist group, which supposedly requested a truce several days ago by placing white flags together with the hammer and sickle in Ayacuchana de Huanta. Later this was apparently denied with the new criminal attacks.

"I did not assume power to see bloodshed. All bloodshed -- whether at the hands of defenders of the law or those who violate it -- causes us deep sorrow," said Belaunde. He added that he hopes for peace, and his greatest desire is to stop the bloodshed.

The police said that in Huarochiri, Lima, some 10 subversives, including 5 women, attacked a Transport Ministry explosives warehouse on Saturday and absconded with about 600 sticks of dynamite. At the same time, another group of Shining Path members blew up the San Sebastian Bridge in Huanuco, 420 km southeast of Lima and decked the parade grounds of the town in red flags.

PRC Embassy, Restaurant Bombed

PY270120 Paris AFP in Spanish 2022 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 26 Dec (AFP) -- Police sources report that terrorist commandos hurled home-made bombs at the PRC Embassy building and at a luxurious restaurant in Lima early today. According to the sources, a five-man group hurled five bombs at the PRC building, which is located in the residential area of Lima. The bombs exploded in the front garden but did not cause any casualties. When the attack took place, Ambassador Su Huang and his wife were inside the embassy building.

A group of eight people, disguised as fishermen, attacked the La Rosa Nautica restaurant, which is located on the sea coast. Considerable damage but no casualties were reported.

No organizations have claimed responsibility for the attacks. However, it was recalled that Shining Path, the Maoist organization that has waged a bloody war of terrorist actions and guerrilla operations in Peru, has always claimed to be Maoist and opposed to the current PRC Government, which the terrorist organization regards as traitorous and revisionist.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich said today that, in his opinion, it was evident that a fissure had appeared within the Shining Path movement. This was his interpretation of the flags calling for truce that appeared in some areas in Ayacucho Department, in the southeastern Andean region, where the guerrilla warfare has been more intense.

Huancavelica Towns Seized

PY262120 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1603 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Dec (EFE) -- Four towns of Tayacaja Province, in the southern department of Huancavelica, have been seized and declared as "liberated areas" by groups of the "Shining Path," a Maoist terrorist organization.

Several Lima newspapers report today that some 100 terrorists seized the locality of Yauli, held a "trial," and killed the governor and a municipal official. The terrorists, who also seized the towns of Lircay, Paucarbambilla, and Palermo, hoisted red hammer and sickle flags and wrote slogans alluding to the "Shining Path" on the walls in all four of the towns they seized.

In Paucarbambilla, they set the municipal building on fire and forced landowners out of their ranches under threat of death.

In turn, the newspaper EL COMERCIO reports today that 30 Shining Path members died and two soldiers were wounded in clashes between the terrorists and police and army troops. The clashes took place in Victor Fajardo, La Mar, and Huamanga Provinces, in the southern Department of Ayacucho.

State of Emergency Continues

PY240020 Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (AFP) -- Today the OFFICIAL GAZETTE reported that due to a typographical error, the state of emergency had been lifted in Huamanga Province, Ayacucho Department, which is being subjected to a wave of terrorist attacks by the Shining Path organization.

Last Wednesday, the government led by President Fernando Belaunde extended the state of emergency for 60 more days in five provinces located in Apurimac and Huancavelica Departments, and in another five provinces located in Ayacucho Department, except in Huamanga Province where the state of emergency had also been in force.

It was initially believed that Huamanga was excluded on purpose since the political-military command in Ayacucho had pledged to reestablish constitutional rights there for the new year. However, now that the OFFICIAL GAZETTE has corrected the mistake, the state of emergency will continue to be in force in all 11 provinces where the Maoist Shining Path organization has been operating.

PIP OFFICER'S ASSASSINATION CLAIMED BY NEW GROUP

PY240022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1935 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (EFE) -- A self-styled Guerrilla Front for the Poor (FGP) [Frente Guerrillero para los Pobres] took responsibility today, through a phone call to the EFE news agency, for the murder of PIP's (Peruvian Investigative Police) General Carlos Errea.

Errea was attacked by several people in Lima on 20 December, and although he fired back, he was finally hit and killed on 21 December. He was the director of the PIP Center for Higher Studies.

Speaking on behalf of the FGP, an unknown organization, an officious male voice told EFE by telephone that if it failed to disseminate their message, it would have "to face the consequences."

The communique notes that the FGP will continue to carry out "executions" unless the government meets their demands, which were explained in the communique sent to EFE and which basically deal with putting an end to "repression" within the country.

Group's Existence Denied

PY262123 Paris AFP in Spanish 2020 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 24 Dec (AFP) -- Colonel Lionel Zevallos, the chief of the homicide department of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP), has denied that a group called Guerrilla Front for the Poor [FGP] is operating in Peru. The group claimed responsibility for the killing of General Carlos Errea.

Gen Errea, who was the director of the PIP's Center for Higher Studies, was shot and killed by four criminals in Lima last Tuesday, according to a report released by Interior Minister Luis Percovich on the same day. Investigations have later confirmed the minister's report.

Yesterday the FGP contacted a foreign news agency and took responsibility for the murder of General Errea. Col Zevallos called this action a joke in bad taste, and remarked that the FGP does not exist, and that it is certainly known that Gen Errea was slain by common criminals.

It was also learned that the PIP is convinced that among the murderers that were three criminals who are well-known in the underworld. They were identified by eyewitnesses from pictures taken by a reporter shortly after the first shots were heard.

HAVANA CITES WORKERS' REJECTION OF IMF DEMANDS

PA240017 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The General Confederation of Peruvian Workers [CGTP], which represents all Peruvian workers, has once again declared its rejection of the intervention in Peru's economic problems by the IMF, the sole purpose of which is to benefit Yankee monopolistic enterprises. The CGTP declared that the IMF has now asked Belaunde Terry's government to freeze the workers' wages, thus affecting the workers' labor stability.

Many miners from the Cata-Acari mine have said that the workers, their wives, and children will go on a hunger strike on Wednesday. The workers have not worked in a year and have not received the back pay they have a right to receive.

Meanwhile, according to the Peruvian interior minister, Antonio Diaz Martinez, who is said to be a leader of the Shining Path group, was arrested by the authorities on Friday in Huaraz, along with Amelia Edith Bueno Falcon.

REPORTAGE ON WORKERS' STRIKES, PROTESTS

Oil Workers' Indefinite Strike

PY242254 Paris AFP in Spanish 1747 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 24 Dec (AFP) -- Today the 9,000 workers of the State Petroleum Agency [PETROPERU] began an indefinite general strike demanding the fulfillment of an agreement reached on salary readjustments with PETROPERU this year.

PETROPERU has a monopoly on crude refining and also carried out oil exploration and production in the Amazon jungle and the northern coast, but U.S. companies Occidental Petroleum and Belco Petroleum extract more oil than PETROPERU in the two areas.

Lambayeque Protest, Strikes

PA232010 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The inhabitants of Lambayeque Department will beat on pots and baby bottles and will march through Lambayeque on 29 December to demonstrate their rejection of the poor economic policies of the current regime and to demonstrate their disgust over the poor attention that the government pays to Peruvian children, who are now suffering from a lack of milk.

In the municipality of Jesus Maria, more than 300 workers have been on strike for several days demanding pay increases. The workers in the municipality of Victoria are facing a similar situation and have been on strike for the past week.

Havana Report

PA250427 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The 280 miners at the Cata-Acari mine in Peru ended their 3-day hunger strike after Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia promised to satisfy their demands. The strikers want the mine reopened and their back wages paid.

According to other reports from Lima, the workers of PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency] began a general strike today in demand of a wage readjustment that would reflect the increase in the cost of living. Workers at the newspapers CORREO and OJO and over 500 workers at the Chrysler Factory also began a general strike for similar reasons.

Meanwhile, the clandestine armed organization called Shining Path simultaneously occupied the capitals of four districts and nine other localities in Huancavelica Department, in Peru's central Andean region. In Sihuas Province, Ancash Department, six alleged members of that organization attached the Development Corporation's ammunition depot, killing the watchman and stealing 2,800 sticks of dynamite. In the city of Ayacucho, another group of Shining Path members dynamited the local jail. In the neighboring locality of (Afi), they attacked an ENTELPERU [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru] relay station, but were repelled by the Republican Guards protecting it.

According to other press reports, 30 members of Shining Path died in clashes with police and military forces on Wednesday and Thursday in the provinces of Victor Fajardo, La Mar, and Huamanga, Ayacucho Department.

HAVANA ON COURT ACTION FOLLOWING PRISON INCIDENT

PA260217 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The inspector of prisons, two lieutenant colonels of the Civil Guard, and one major of the Republican Guard will be tried for homicide in connection with the massacre last 14 December of eight fugitives and one hostage at the Lurigancho prison in Lima, Peru. The court in charge of the case will file the respective charges this coming week.

ARREST OF RADIO STATION DIRECTOR SPARKS PROTESTS

Police Repress Demonstrators

PY232215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0452 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 22 Dec (EFE) -- Police forces tonight violently repressed a group of persons who expressed their solidarity with the director of a radio station closed by the government on Saturday, 18 December.

Several foreign correspondents, who were held for approximately 20 minutes, have confirmed to EFE that at least 20 demonstrators were arrested in front of the building where German Araujo, director of "CX-30 La Radio" is in his third day of a hunger strike.

When the police went into action, the people of that downtown area began to bang on pans, protesting the police action.

Roy Verocay and Alberto Zenga, REUTER and DPA correspondents, respectively, who were in the area engaging in their professional duties, were held for 20 minutes and treated rudely.

Verocay was hit by one of the policemen, and his notes on the event were confiscated. Another reporter, Alfonso Lessa, of the weekly AQUI, which belongs to the proscribed Christian Democratic Party, was also detained and subsequently released.

Havana Reports Incidents

PA240057 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] It has been reported in Montevideo that 20 people were arrested when the Uruguayan police forcefully repressed a rally in front of radio station "CX-30 La Radio," which was recently closed by the Uruguayan military regime.

The demonstrators were shouting vivas for Jose German Araujo, the station director, who has been on a hunger strike for the past 3 days to demand an end to the penalty that was imposed on the radio station.

Meanwhile, at an event in Buenos Aires, Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the Uruguayan Communist Party, called for international solidarity with the Uruguayan people's struggle, and demanded the release of Jaime Perez, Liber Seregni, and other Uruguayan political prisoners.

Christmas Eve Demonstration

PA251715 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1307 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Dec (EFE) -- Much of the Uruguayan population exchanged the fireworks with which Christmas is traditionally greeted for the banging of pots and pans, in a new demonstration rejecting the de facto regime that governs the country.

This Chilean-style protest had been urged by the Workers Interunion Plenum (PIT) and the Social and Cultural Association of Public School Students [Asociacion Social y Cultural de Estudiantes de la Ensenanza Publica -- ASCEEP]. The demonstration began at midnight, and lasted 30 minutes.

The call was made with the slogan: "The people demand bread and liberty by banging pots and pans on the 24th and the 31st." A quick tour through various Montevideo neighborhoods showed there was massive adherence to the demonstration.

Meanwhile, some 400 persons met in front of an apartment building on 18th of July Avenue -- this capital's most important avenue -- to state their solidarity with newsmen Jose German Araujo, who has been on a hunger strike for a week.

Araujo, who is director of the radio station "CX-30 La Radio," made that decision to protest last week's closing of his radio station by the de facto regime, which has not yet officially explained the reason for the measure.

The already classic refrains "the military dictatorship is finished" and "we want them to go" were chanted in downtown and suburban Montevideo.

There was no official report of arrests or incidents.

80 Reportedly Arrested

PY261751 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Montevideo Police office has not yet issued any official information about the situation of those arrested at Avenue 18 July.

Last night, several hundred persons gathered at the intersection of 18 July Avenue and 8 October Street. As is well-known, the director of "CX-30 La Radio" is carrying out a hunger strike at that address. Later, the people began to walk toward downtown Montevideo, but they were intercepted by police at the intersection of 18 July Avenue and Minas Street.

Press reports note that several persons were arrested. The reports add that about 80 persons were allegedly arrested, but no official report in this regard has been issued.

However, it is expected that there will be an official statement within a few hours regarding the situation of those arrested, since a definitive decision must be made within 24 hours of their arrest.

Director's Children Detained

PY270252 Paris AFP in Spanish 0006 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Dec (AFP) -- The two children of Jose German Araujo, the director of the radio station "CX-30 La Radio," who has been fasting for 8 days, were released this afternoon after being held for 5 hours at a Montevideo police station.

The two youths were detained at noon today at Carrasco Airport while waiting inside their father's car for the arrival of 154 descendants of Uruguayan exiles living in Europe. Two other persons were also reported arrested.

Gabriela, 19, and Diego, 17, were questioned about the loudspeakers that they carried in the car and about some recorded tapes with welcoming messages for the group of travelers.

"CX-30 La Radio" was closed because it provides live coverage of the Colorado and Blanco parties -- the traditional parties. The conventions had been authorized by the government.

Araujo himself asked over the phone for the release of his children. It was learned that they were not mistreated during their detention.

A high-ranking police official took the children to Araujo, who harshly criticized the police attitude toward his relatives.

Araujo's children were detained along with the children of late Blanco Party leader Fernando Oliu, who died recently.

The journalist, whose health has begun to deteriorate, entered his 8th day of fast tonight. He has been affected by heart palpitations, and has suffered the effects of the tense hours he has experienced during the fast.

Despite the marked deterioration of his physical condition -- he lost 8 kilograms -- he is still determined to continue with his hunger strike, regardless of the consequences. On the other hand, he says that he is fully aware of the consequences.

GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS PRESS CENSORSHIP MEASURES

PY240231 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Dec (EFE) -- The Uruguayan military government today seized the entire edition of the weekly DEMOCRACIA, which backs the National (Blanco) Party exiled leader Wilson Ferreyra Aldunate.

This is the second seizure this week for noncompliance with the new censorship procedure that calls for police personnel to be present at the printing of the weeklies.

The sale of the publication is authorized by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (ESMACO), which is charged with enforcing the 2 August decree forbidding publication of reports and commentaries about political activities.

Last Wednesday, the government banned the sale of the independent Weekly BUSQUEDA, and an official release regarding reasons for the measure is expected in the next few hours.

It was leaked that BUSQUEDA carried an editorial on the exiled Ferreyra Aldunate, as well as information on the national conventions of the traditional Blanco and Colorado parties, which were held over the past weekend.

Last night, the editions of the weeklies DEMOCRACIA (Blanco Party) CORREO DE LOS VIERNES, and JAQUE (Colorado Party) were held under police custody at the printing plants.

ESMACO later authorized the circulation of CORREO DE LOS VIERNES and JAQUE, but seized the edition of DEMOCRACIA.

HAVANA REPORTS GOVERNMENT BAN ON PUBLICATIONS

PA231521 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The Uruguayan military regime banned circulation of the latest issue of the weekly BUSQUEDA, which carried a recounting of the conventions of the Blanco and Colorado parties, held last week.

At the same time, it is withholding circulation of three other non-daily publications linked to opposition political parties.

BUSQUEDA director (Danilo Ardilla) charged what the military dictatorship intends to lead the information media to total self-imposed censorship.

Meanwhile, Jose German Araujo, director of the radio station "CX-30 La Radio" of Montevideo, entered his third day of a hunger strike protesting the closing of the station during the transmission of debate at the Blanco and Colorado party conventions.

GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO EXTRADITE EXILED FERREYRA

PY230125 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0023 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 21 Dec (EFE) -- The Uruguayan military government cannot legally ask for the extradition of exiled leader Wilson Ferreyra Aldunate, the military junta admitted today.

In an official communique, which the Montevideo newspapers published today, the military leadership made it clear Ferreyra Aldunate cannot run for president, despite his nomination by the Blanco Party during a convention held last weekend. The communique also lists the charges brought against the Uruguayan political leader.

According to the military, Ferreyra Aldunate must answer charges before military courts for "assisting subversive associations, for morally discrediting the Armed Forces, and for engaging in actions that could expose the country to reprisals."

The government cannot request the arrest and extradition of Ferreyra Aldunate based on these charges because it would be legally out of keeping with international treaties on these matters that the country has signed.

COLORADO PARTY MEMBER SUMMONED BY MILITARY COURT

PY240222 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1853 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Dec (EFE) -- Colorado Party sources have told EFE that Bernardo Possolo, a Colorado Party convention delegate and former deputy, was detained today.

Possolo was summoned by the sixth district military court and, after being interrogated, was placed at the disposal of the prosecutor.

The military court apparently took action against Possolo because of a speech he delivered during the Colorado Party convention held in Montevideo last weekend.

Within the Colorado Party, Possolo subscribes to the majority opposition faction led by the party's secretary general, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who is an attorney and a journalist.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPEALS TO ARGENTINA

PY231420 Paris AFP in Spanish 2224 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Dec (AFP) -- The Uruguayan Human Rights Commission has appealed to Argentine Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli to do whatever is possible to clarify the disappearance of more than 100 Uruguayans in Argentina.

In a letter addressed to the new interior minister of Raul Alfonsin's government, the Uruguayan Human Rights Commission expressed to Troccoli its concern over [words indistinct] as far as granting maximum protection to human dignity is concerned.

According to this group, more than 130 Uruguayans are missing, including workers, professors, students, doctors, economists, religious persons, lawyers, and young children, plus some as yet unborn, whose mothers are missing, or others possibly born in captivity.

Although we fear that there may be cases beyond human hope, we cannot give up the desire that our fellow citizens will be able to return to their families, the letter to Troccoli stated.

The commission also announced that there are witnesses to the torturing of Uruguayan citizens in clandestine places, and added that there is testimony that while a Uruguayan union leader was being tortured, representatives of the torturers were negotiating his release in exchange for a large sum of money.

COUNCIL REPORTS AD MAJORITY IN CONGRESS

PA231420 Paris AFP in Spanish 1819 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Today the Supreme Electoral Council reported that as of 23 January 1984, the Venezuelan Congress will comprise 47 senators and 201 deputies, with the Social Democrats holding a majority in both houses.

The Democratic Action (AD-Social Democrat) of President Jaime Lusinchi (1984-89) will easily approve its foreign policy and security initatives (in the Senate, and initiatives on the economy and social affairs (in the Chamber of Deputies).

The new Venezuelan parliament, in accordance with the results of the 4 December general elections, will be comprised as follows:

Senators: AD (Social Democrat), 29 seats; COPEI (Christian Democrat), 16; and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] (moderate Marxist), 2.

Deputies: AD, 113; COPEI, 60; MAS, 10; Communist Party (pro-Moscow), 3; MIR [MOVEMENT of the Revolutionary Left] (leftist), 3; MEP [People's Electoral Movement] (labor leftist), 3; OPINA [National Opinion] (rightist liberal), 3; URD [Democratic Republican Union] (centrist pro-Lusinchi), 3; MIN [National Integrity Movement] (rightist), 1; UNA [not further identified] (leftist), 1; and LS [Socialist League] (ultraleftist

Former presidents of the Republic -- as of 1984, Social Democrat Carlos Andres Perez and Christian Democrats Rafael Caldera and Luis Herrera Campins -- are lifetime senators under Venezuelan laws.

The samll Radical Party could raise the number of deputies to 202, depending on a vote count claim being studied by the Supreme Electoral Council.

HAVANA REPORTS ON PORT WORKERS' STRIKE

PA231524 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The strike of some 15,000 Venezuelan port workers today entered its third day with the paralysis of all Venezuelan ports. The workers are demanding year-end bonus payments and compliance with other economic and social demands established in the work contracts.

The conflict worsened yesterday at La Guaira, the nation's principal port, with public demonstrations that blocked the main avenue of that port city.

15 Striking Workers Injured

PA242250 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Over 15 people were injured and 50 arrested in the Venezuelan port of La Guaira during a harsh police clampdown on hundreds of workers who were staging a peaceful march in demand of salary wage hikes.

Venezuelan port workers have been on strike since Wednesday to demand the payment of back wages and year-end bonuses.

ORTEGA CALLS FOR MEASURES TO AVOID CANAL RIF

PA231725 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Video interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega by unidentified Televisora Nacional reporters; no date or place given -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] As members of the Canal Commission's board of directors, we were informed of some austerity measures on the part of the administration, perhaps resulting from the drop of traffic and tonnage through the canal. At the same time, however, this being a problem that concerns the Panamanian Government, we decided to send a letter to the canal administrator in which we pointed out that although we believe in such economical measures, these cannot include a reduction in force of Panamanian personnel.

Such measures are contradictory to the canal treaties, because Panama is supposed to have increasing -- not decreasing -- participation in canal operations, and 500 jobs are very important to Panama at this time, moreso now that we are promoting the creation of new jobs. This was also discussed at a meeting with the canal administration in which we suggested that due to its nature and significance, such a measure should be taken up before the board of directors, noting that Panama considered that there were other aspects in the Panama Canal Commission budget that can be revised to prevent the adoption of such a measure.

[Reporter] Why does the measure only affect Panamanian personnel? There is no mention of possible dismissal of U.S. personnel.

[Ortega] There are other aspects, I said before, that could be considered. In the case of U.S. personnel, it is more costly for the commission to appoint or keep a U.S. employee in his job than a Panamanian employee, due to expenses such as travel allowances and other benefits involved to compensate for certain hardships, like moving from one country to another. There are still other measures that could be discussed within the commission's budget, like subsidies and additional bonuses to commission officials, which could be revised in order to avoid affecting the Panamanian labor force.

[Reporter] Then can we infer from your statement that the measure is not yet final?

[Ortega] They told us that they were going to suspend the action and wait for our comment and contributions, which we are already studying and discussing. In fact, we are presenting other alternatives which, in the end, will lead to the conclusion that the reduction of the Panamanian labor force is unnecessary.

HAVANA CITES FOREIGN MINISTER ON CONTADORA

PA231420 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega has said that the main causes of the Central American crisis are poverty and social differences. I do not believe, he asserted, that the problems of the area are the result of the East-West conflict, and he reiterated that the Contadora Group rejects and excludes direct military intervention in solving the differences in the area.

At a news conference in Panama City, Ortega referred to his meeting Tuesday and Wednesday with his Colombian, Venezuelan, and Mexican colleagues. He said the meeting evaluated the Group's work in its first year and discussed rules for fulfilling the commitments assumed in the Document of Objectives, already ratified by the five governments of Central America.

Meanwhile, on the local political scene, former Panamanian National Guard Commander retired General Ruben Dario Paredes will be nominated presidential candidate for the May 1984 elections by the Popular Nationalist Party, PNP. The announcement was made by PNP President Olimpo Saez during a news conference in Panama City also attended by Paredes.

PAREDES, SAEZ SIGN AGREEMENT FOR 1984 ELECTIONS

PA231205 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Children, family, and personal friends of retired General Ruben Dario Paredes gathered this morning at the Cesa del Marisco Restaurant to be present at the signing of a political-electoral agreement between General Paredes and Olimpo Saez, president of the Popular Nationalist Party, PNP. The presidential ticket announced in the document presents the two men as candidates for president and vice president of the Republic for the 1984 elections.

General Paredes has launched his candidacy twice during the past 4 months. First it was for a never-achieved alliance of parties, and on this occasion for the PNP, a recently created party.

Forces Not To Support Paredes

PA240427 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Announcer-read report]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Purcell has assumed command of the Panamanian Air Force [FAP]. The change of command ceremony was held at the FAP installations in Tocumen early this afternoon. It was attended by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the general staff of our military institution, on behalf of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces. We interviewed Col Diaz Herrera after the ceremony:

[Begin videotape] [Reporter Luis Alberto Carrizo] Now that retired General Ruben Dario Paredes has announced his candidacy, will the National Defense Forces support him?

[Diaz Herrera] I didn't expect that question, but I must respond honestly and frankly. Retired Gen Paredes has the constitutional and legal right to proclaim his candidacy with the support of a political party or any other group. However, our National Defense Forces -- and on this point I am voicing the opinion of Gen Noriega and the general staff -- must emphasize, and we have already informed all of our troops of this through the appropriate channels, that this candidacy doesn't have our support, because we would thus be violating our country's Constitution. Therefore, it is his political right to run and we respect the decision he has made as a private citizen, but we don't support it. [end videotape]

PANAMANIAN MINISTER TO DELIVER DOCUMENT ON NORMS

PA232055 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 pp 1, 8-A

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera will begin a tour today of the Central American countries to present to the governments of the region the proposal drafted by the four Contadora Group foreign ministers at their meeting of 20 and 21 December.

The announcement was made at a breakfast yesterday by Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega, who explained that the document Cabrera will deliver covers security, politics, and joint action in the economic field. According to a press bulletin, the document is called "Norms for the Execution of the Commitments Established by the Document of Objectives." It includes the mechanisms for verification and control of the possible peace agreements in the Central American region.

Cabrera's mission is to present the document to the appropriate governments so that they can study and analyze it and make suggestions and changes before the fifth joint conference of foreign ministers to be held in Panama 7 to 9 January, the first anniversary of the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in Central America.

Ortega also said that the Contadora Group's regional peace efforts have been strengthened "more than ever today." Evaluating Contadora efforts in 1983, Ortega said that they were "positive" and indicated that this special mechanism shows that the situation is being resolved in favor of peace through a fluid conversation at the foreign minister level. Nevertheless, he said that the success of Contadora does not depend on its four member-countries and the solidarity of world and international organizations such as the OAS and the United Nations, which have expressed their support. Ortega indicated that a product of this mechanism of Contadora is the Document of Objectives, which has been accepted as "good," and was drafted with all the countries' participation.

On disclosing that Deputy Foreign Minister Cabrera will travel to the five Central American countries today to formally present the proposal called "Norms for the Execution of the Document of Objectives," Ortega stressed that the 7 to 9 January joint meeting of foreign ministers in Panama will discuss the means to verify and oversee possible peace agreements and the guarantor of those agreements. He added that if agreements are reached on Contadora's proposal, special commissions will be created in mid-January so that they will present their final work by 29 February at the latest. "It is a difficult task," he commented. Ortega added that "peace is not imposed. If it is, the agreements will not be fulfilled. It must be the result of negotiation."

Speaking with the foreign press, Ortega reiterated that Contadora has removed the Central American situation from the East-West context, and that regional economic problems are based on social injustice.

He explained that special commissions will emerge as the governments approve the document on implementation norms, which means that "we would be beginning approval of the final documents" in a new phase that is "half of the peace negotiations." Nevertheless, the Panamanian minister said that if the opposite of what is planned occurs at the next joint meeting of foreign ministers, it will have to be deferred to another meeting that would be held no more than 15 days later.

Ortega also stressed that the Central American and Contadora countries are getting ready to develop the Document of Objectives with this proposal that consists of three very important aspects for Central American peace. They are the political, security, and economic situation.

"If these three factors are not combined, it will be very difficult to draft a coherent peace proposal," he added.

He further added that the group has begun to review the experiences on mechanisms of verification and control of other important documents of peace in other regions, because they might help the process being carried out.

FOUR C.A. COUNTRIES END MEETING ON CONTADORA

PA231450 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] At the invitation of the Honduran Government, representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala met in Tegucigalpa 19-22 December to examine documents and proposals from the various states regarding the pacification process in the Central American region and to prepare for the next joint meeting of Central American and Contadora Group foreign ministers.

The Tegucigalpa meeting represents an additional effort by the governments of the four participating countries that is aimed at finding formulas and mechanisms for peaceful, overall, and regional solutions of the Central American crisis. The representatives drafted proposals that will be presented for the consideration of their foreign ministries. The proposals contain ideas and initiatives to achieve peace in the area under conditions acceptable to all the Central American states.

COSTA RICA

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

PA262328 Paris AFP in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] San Jose, 26 Dec (AFP) -- The Presidential House has announced that lawyer Carlos Jose Gutierrez, 56, was appointed foreign minister of Costa Rica today.

Gutierrez, who until now held the post of justice minister, will replace Fernando Volio Jimenez, who tendered his resignation on 13 November. Gutierrez, in turn, will be replaced by Hugo Munoz, who until today served as attorney general.

SURVEILLANCE OVER ANTI-SANDINISTS INCREASED

PA252324 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1815 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] San Jose, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The police have increased their surveillance over anti-Sandinist groups operating in this country, and in the last few hours they seized an arms shipment they found in a vehicle bearing Panamanian license plates.

According to Public Security Ministry spokesmen, the weapons were seized in this capital. The spokesmen also announced a search operation near the Nicaraguan border, in an effort to locate the Nicaraguans of both persuasions who are deployed in the area.

According to Colonel Oscar Vidal, general director of the Civil Guard, the plan will seek to "reduce the conflicting parties' chances of acting from Costa Rican territory."

The Panamanian vehicle intercepted in this capital by members of the rural guard is a luxury pickup, but no details have been provided as to its make or registration number. Neither has any information been made available as to the type and number of weapons that the vehicle carried, nor about their origin or owners.

Meanwhile, agents of the Intelligence and Security Directorate have visited several border towns in the last 2 days, in an attempt to confirm persistent rumors about certain private groups that are allegedly training to intervene in the Nicaraguan conflict, some on behalf of the government, others on the side of the opposition.

According to official spokesmen, heavy and prolonged shooting has been heard on the Nicaraguan side in the last 2 days. "This might indicate that heavy fighting is taking place between the conflicting forces." The fighting may have been generally intensified all along the border area, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The reports on these developments come from police posts located in such distant places as Penas Blancas (on the Pacific side), and Barra del Colorado (on the Atlantic).

Meanwhile, reports have been received in this capital from the General Command of Nicaragua's ARDE (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance) on the fighting between the forces led by Eden Pastora and the Sandinist People's Army (EPS). According to these reports, the Felix Pedro Martinez Platoon in Zone TPH-1 [not further identified] "unexpectedly attacked the EPS forces on Niagara Hill, in the Mississippi area, near the Punta Gorda River," killing 15 troops and wounding several others.

The ARDE forces claim to have killed 12 other Sandinists in the course of 2 other operations, and to have destroyed military facilities in Rio San Juan Department.

The rebel command also reports that, led by Companero Juguete, the Comillo 6 Squad of the General Estrada Column laid an ambush in an area located between San Roque and Boca de Piedra, near the Punta Gorda River. A total of 12 casualties were inflicted in 3 hours of fighting. A military post was destroyed in Finca Santa Ana, near Colon, in Rio San Juan Department. No casualties have been reported on either side.

According to ARDE, that day [not further specified] they gave protection to a large group of people until they approached the Costa Rican border. The group crossed the border and entered Costa Rica as refugees.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON RESIGNS AS ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

PA250417 Paris AFP in English 0356 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, Dec 25 (AFP) -- The speaker of El Salvador's Constituent Assembly, powerful far-rightist Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, formally resigned Friday night after the parliament split over policy issues.

Major D'Aubuisson, head of the country's far-right Nationalist Republican Alliance Party, had already tendered his resignation last week; he is a candidate in next year's presidential elections. Major D'Aubuisson is succeeded by Maria Julia Castillo, who was elected by combined votes from the Christian Democrat Party and the right-wing Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party.

The Assembly's vice president will be Adolfo Rey Prendes, a Christian Democrat.

D'AUBUISSON'S 'SECURITY APPARATUS' DISMANTLED

PA270038 Paris AFP in Spanish 1846 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 26 Dec (AFP) -- Today Christian Democratic deputies announced the dismantling of the "onerous" security apparatus that had been functioning in the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly at the service of former Assembly president and right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson.

Legislators told this agency that D'Aubuisson, who resigned last week in order to dedicate himself to the electoral campaign, had a personal security team "that was paid for with the people's money." According to Deputies Julio Rey and Guillermo Guevara, "now that Deputy Maria Julia castillo has become president of the Assembly, that entire security system must disappear." They added that D'Aubuisson's security chief, whose name they did not disclose, is "suspected" of having ties with the death squads.

It was recalled that after D'Aubuisson's resignation last Friday the congressional directorate was reorganized and several of the former Assembly president's fellow members of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) were removed, including Hugo Barrera, Gloria Salguero, and Francisco Mertino.

Hector Flores, Hugo Carrillo, and Rafael Moran, leaders of the similarly right-wing National Conciliation Party (PCN), were also removed, along with the Salvadoran Popular Party's (PPS) sole deputy, Genaro Pastore.

The reorganization of the directorate of the former Constituent Assembly, which has now become a legislative assembly, elicited the dissatisfaction of ARENA and the PCN, both of which have protested this "violation" of the Constitution.

The session at which the new directors were elected was presided over by only one previous director, Deputy Castillo, who was elected president.

D'AUBUISSON ON U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN WAR

PA252141 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2008 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- According to Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, former president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, foreign political intervention in the conduct of the war against the Salvadoran guerrillas has prevented the government from scoring a military victory.

At a Christmas reception for the press, D'Aubuisson, the presidential candidate for the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) in the election slated for 25 March 1984, said that this intervention has come mostly from the United States.

According to D'Aubuisson, there are two alternatives for ending the almost 4-year-old armed conflict: The first would be a negotiation of power with the left; the second, a military victory. "We," D'Aubuisson added, "will support the Army and the people in their struggle against subversion." He added that if it wins the election, ARENA will fight to improve the country's image abroad by restructuring the diplomatic service, "whose mission will be to report abroad on our true reality."

D'Aubuisson said that there is a campaign to discredit him. This pressure, he explained, first emerged "after I said no to communism and expressed my total rejection of all subversive movements."

Regarding the detention in El Salvador of Captain Eduardo Ernesto Avila, who has been linked to the deaths of two U.S. agrarian advisers in 1981, D'Aubuisson said that the military high command has admitted that Avila is not involved in this trial. However, he added, according to the investigations conducted by the United States, it is believed that Avila might have a contribution to make as a witness.

Avila, who was captured in San Salvador on 19 December, is currently being detained by the security bodies. Captain Avila was recently expelled from Costa Rica, where he was a civilian attache in the Salvadoran Embassy, for participating in the planting of a bomb in the home of a Cuban citizen in San Jose.

D'Aubuisson explained that in the first week in January he will ask the Legislative Assembly, in his role as a deputy, for permission to dedicate himself to the political campaign, with an eye on the March 1984 election.

PARTIES NAME VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

PA251910 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1704 GMT 25 Dec 83

[By Cristina Hasbun de Merino]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Deputy Hugo Barrera and former Public Works Minister Pio Arnulfo Ayala have been designated candidates for vice president in the Salvadoran elections slated for 25 March 1984.

Barrera is a member of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), and Ayala is a member of the National Conciliation Party (PCN), which now hold 19 and 5 legislative assembly seats respectively. The designation of Barrera and Ayala was the result of meetings by the national leaderships of both parties this weekend.

It was learned that Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena has resigned to become a vice presidential candidate for the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). This has not been confirmed.

PRESIDENT MAGANA ADDRESSES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PA241630 San Salvador Domestic Service 0200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Christmas message delivered by Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana on 23 December 1983; place not given; intercepted in progress -- live]

[Text] ...the main topic of my inaugural speech on (?2) May 1982 was one of national unity. We worked diligently in this direction until we achieved an interparty program known as the Apaneca Pact. This interparty agreement became a basic platform which defined the objectives of the national unity government. This pact has been fully implemented.

The first aim of the basic platform was pacification. The National Unity government has taken every (?action) which does not hurt our independence and dignity to achieve the peace we all want. The Peace Commission has met with the political sectors of the subversion to see if they will put down their weapons and participate in the beautiful democratic process we are experiencing thanks to the efforts of all Salvadorans.

However, the guerrillas do not act in the national interest. This conviction prompts me to say on behalf of my people that the conflict which could have been attributed to internal causes, which have been gradually corrected, has become a war of aggression in which the leaders of the subversion are playing the role of promoters.

Therefore, we maintain that the only possible negotiation is based on an end to aggression. As long as that doesn't occur, El Salvador will exercise its right to legitimate defense, to the final consequences.

The second aim of the basic platform was democratization. I can proudly say that no one can provide democracy lessons. We are a result of the people's will and we are willing to subject ourselves to their will again, turning over the government to whoever they want. 25 March has been slated as the date for presidential elections. We are certain that our people will meet their civic responsibility, just as they did on 27 March 1982. We are also certain that political party leaders will conduct the coming campaign in a way our people deserve.

The socioeconomic reforms have been consolidated. They are part of the Salvadoran people's property and all we have to do now is to continue their development in an increasingly efficient manner. The basic platform of the National Unity government also announced the following intention: To achieve a climate of security in the legal and institutional sphere, thus permitting the promotion of the general trust needed to make the other great objectives of the state feasible.

It has been the constant concern of the National Unity government to sow and promote a climate of trust among citizens. The judicial system had never enjoyed more independence than now, giving each his own. The National Unity government has allowed the people to work and voice their opinions and, in other words, has supplied the conditions so that the Salvadoran people can be free. Unrestricted freedom of the press -- which is one of the greatest sources of pride of my government -- is a basic element in a climate of trust.

Salvadorans may have reservations about anything. The only thing they don't doubt is themselves, their ability to survive, and their quality as true men.

Regarding human rights, the National Unity government must stress respect for these rights. This is very important for coexistence.

There is unrestricted freedom of the press. Any sanction would probably be justified in view of the conflictive situation we live in. But we have opted to allow everyone to say what he thinks regardless of how inconsequential or foolish these views might be. No limits must be placed on freedom of expression.

Regarding freedom and life, the government I head has been respectful of their preservation, to the highest degree. There is a lack of respect for the physical integrity of the people -- which doesn't come from the government, but which is its duty to correct. I am referring to those who, taking justice in their own hands, decide for themselves who should be eliminated. In a state of democracy, nobody can decide on the lives of others. To permit such actions is to promote a return to the law of the jungle and foment a state of social deterioration which can only benefit subversion.

Those who plan and commit murders on behalf of vehement patriotism are undermining the most basic norms for social cohesion and are making room for common criminals to disguise their thirst for vengeance with stands of alleged political correction.

The president of the Republic must make sure that the law is enforced and that the citizens' physical integrity and the Salvadorans' sentiments of mercy are respected. The Armed Forces general commander ratifies the position of the top military commanders on this matter in these moments of serious government responsibility.

This is a good time to clearly establish that we don't need any pressure to fulfill our duties as civilized rulers.

On 15 September, I reiterated what I said in December 1982: The downward trend of our economy in the past 3 years is beginning to turn upward and that the recovery process is on its way. I said I was pleased to announce that almost all economic indicators confirm that the economic reactivation is underway with a marked tendency to increase this pace.

We also said that we should particularly refer to an improvement in the external sector that will allow us, for the first time in the past few years, to have a positive balance in 1983 in net international reserves. This recently allowed us to begin the process to lift the restrictions on imports, which had to be implemented in order to avoid greater deterioration in the balance of payment.

This situation continues with such increased activity and confidence that we will be able to look forward to 1984 with justifiable optimism.

Among the Apaneca Pact's objectives and aspirations is the following: strengthening our ability to negotiate at the foreign level in such a manner that we achieve greater international cooperation, political support, and a guarantee for respect of our international rights -- basically, independence, legal equality, and the state's sovereign right to guarantee Salvadorans their right to self-determination -- along with opposition to intervention in other states and their domestic problems.

A fundamental change at the international level has occurred in the nation's situation in the 20 months of the provisional government.

At the beginning of 1982 on the international scene, El Salvador was considered the defendant in a couple of foreign ministries. In some sectors of world public opinion, subversion was considered a democratic and representative force. This situation began to change on 28 March 1982 when the Salvadoran people told their truth to the world. Since this date, day by day, step by step, El Salvador has become better understood by international public opinion.

During my Christmas message last year, I said that perhaps those responsible for subversion are most mistaken in judging the people's attitude. Subversion considered that, as the result of what occurred on 28 March, an out-and-out traditionalist government advocating absolute power, rigid and reluctant to accept change and universal influences, would be established.

With this premise in mind, subversion reached the conclusion that, through intensified destruction and terrorism, the government would have to resort to restrictions, rationing, and the establishment of a police state. In view of this, the Salvadoran people, traditionally opposed to dictatorship, would identify themselves with subversion.

Quite the contrary has occurred. We are living in a democracy rather than in a dictatorship. The result of this democracy is a government open to reflective, useful, understanding progress; a government favoring moderation in the exercise of power.

The Salvadoran people's acceptance of the type of government we are exercising is our biggest political achievement during the year about to close. In 1983, the world became aware of the Salvadoran people's stance and its government's democratic nature.

I said a year ago that our people had turned their eyes to God. His Holiness John Paul II's visit presented us to the world as a devout, peace-loving people, thus confirming my assertion. But subversion dared sound the only discordant note in our people's deeply Christian stance.

The trips made by our president provided the occasion for understanding, respect, and support of the Salvadoran people and its government abroad.

This turn of international public opinion is due to the Salvadoran people's positive stance. This reality has also been reflected at the international level. While legitimate defense with democracy is being exerted in El Salvador, subversion terrorizes without cause and only shows its totalitarianism with the absurdity that is typical of the communist regimes.

We have a constitution that was promulgated as the result of long months of discussion and study. With the full enforcement of this constitution, the National Unity government's achievements are consolidated. This constitution clearly establishes how power is to be sought, how it is to be achieved, and how is is to be exerted. Only through the vote can anyone expect to govern Salvadorans. There is no possiblility of negotiating with anyone in a joint power government.

This is our peace program because pacification is reached through a democratic process, which is the sole struggle framework for elections. All the democratization processes begun for respect of human rights, for economic recovery, for reform, for confidence and security, as well as for international confidence, are based on and consolidated with the Constitution and with the clear definition of the property rights established by law.

The final discussion and promulgation has been carried out without the least influence or interference by the executive branch. The members of the Constituent Assembly have been zealous of their rights, and the other branches of the state have been fully aware that they belong to the highest power.

At one time I said that in 1982 we began with discouragement and that 1983 would be the year of our hope. In truth, 1983 fully accomplished that hope and has left us positive results. The year 1984 will be the year of democratic consolidation.

The National Unity government will do what it can to ensure normal elections, and expects that these elections will be carried out in a gentlemanly manner. The political forces that will vie for the public's opinion are the same that have given us the current Constitution.

During the drafting of the Constitution, discussion centered around property rights, particularly the distribution of land. It is to be hoped that, since property rights have been determined, the electoral campaign will be centered around the human values lying at the root of our Christian civilication. It is also to be expected that in the future political campaign past frictions will be laid aside and future opportunities stressed. Reduction of differences and institutional preparation for a better future is the fundamental work that the National Unity government has carried out. Now that its term is about to end, the road to designation of leaders has been paved.

We expect Salvadorans to celebrate the year's end festivel in a peaceful, gay climate that we have not experienced for many years.

Salvadorans: To complete this message, I wish to present all my fellow countrymen with my fraternal greetings and my own and my family's wish that the Christmas spirit will prevail in all homes as a prelude to the peace we all long for.

We can commemorate Christmas in our homes thanks to the heroic sacrifice of the soldiers who, far from their families, stand watch defending our liberties and affording protection so that all Salvadorans of good will can strengthen ties of friendship among our families.

Many anonymous heroes have offered their lives so our homeland can continue to be free. To them and their families we want to express our deepest recognition and gratitude. In this moment of trial for our nation, let us invoke the protection of the Almighty so that we in El Salvador can also say, "On earth, peace, good will toward men."

AUXILIARY BISHOP DECRIES 'BLIND VIOLENCE'

PA251830 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1724 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, reported today that this year, from 1 January to 15 December, 6,096 Salvadorans died "as a result of the blind violence lashing the country." In his homily at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Rosa Chavez said that 4,736 of these victims were attributed to the Armed Forces and paramilitary squadrons. The prelate said that 1,279 of the victims were members of the Army and security corps. He said that "this sad situation must not be repeated in 1984, when the people have great hope of achieving peace." Rosa Chavez said that during 1983, the Archbishop's Legal Aid Office received reports of 921 arrests. It established that 152 are being held by the security corps, 229 are in prison, 14 were murdered, and 526 are missing.

The prelate stated: "We share the feelings of those families that had an empty chair at their Christmas table. In this country it has been rare for people to die of natural causes. We hope that 1984 brings reality to the promise offered by the fight against those who have made violence their god." He said that next year "the hands that hold a rifle must be disarmed. But before that, minds and hearts must be disarmed. As the Pope says, it is not rifles, but people, who kill."

The prelate said that 111 persons died this week, not including the results of the military operation in Morazan and San Miguel departments.

Rosa Chavez also reported that the Archbishop's Legal Aid Office was recently informed of the arrest of 111 people in two towns in Morazan and La Union. He gave no further details, but called for a prompt solution to this situation. He said that some families have relatives being held by guerrillas, who are demanding payment of large war taxes. He complained: "This is a sad method of playing with human lives, with men's freedom, by people who claim they are struggling for liberty in the country." Rosa Chavez said: "I was impressed by the visit this week of a young mother of two whose husband, Antonio Amaya -- a National Guardsman -- is in the hands of the guerrillas."

We are on the eve of a new year, the prelate said, and there are hopes of finding the road to peace. However, he added, the people are also skeptical, because they have been fooled many times before. He noted that it is up to political leaders to do things differently this time, with the cooperation of all Salvadorans.

NATIONAL GUARD REPORTS ARREST OF TERRORISTS

PA232247 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Press communique issued by the Salvadoran National Guard; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] The terrorists who were sowing panic in the metropolitan area of San Salvador by setting buses afire, distributing propaganda, and carrying out other activities, and who kidnapped, savagely tortured, and murdered a National Guardsman in October 1983, have been captured by the National Guard and turned over to a military judge.

[Words indistinct] belong to the Armed Forces of National Resistance, FARN, which is active in Delgado, Cuscatancingo, and San Ramon. The group, led by Commander Mario, recently [words indistinct].

Those who were captured are Carlos Santos Andrade Guerraro, alias Sergio; Oscar Antonio Gonzalez Geron; Carlos Alberto Pascual Duarte; William Lorenzo Diaz Herrera; William Lawrence Coto Hernandez; Juana Maria Velasquez; Doris Elizabeth Hernandez; Maria Ivette Sossa Leyva; and Rodolfo Antonio Coto Pineda.

AIP, RADIO GUAZAPA CITED ON CLASH WITH ARMY

PA241630 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Heavy fighting between the FMLN and [words indistinct] the Agencia Independiente de Prensa, AIP, has been reported. Meanwhile, Radio Guazapa has said that hand-to-hand fighting is underway at the main square in San Jose Guayabal, 18 km northeast of San Salvador.

Guerrilla commander Misael Gallardo reported that the Salvadoran Army has sustained many casualties and that the patriots have seized many [words indistinct] noted that the troops are retreating while dozens of soldiers are prisoners of war now and are urging their comrades-in-arms to desert and thus prevent the people's bloodshed, AIP noted.

ARMY RECOVERS SEVERAL TOWNS IN SAN MIGUEL

PA231150 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] San Miguel, 21 Dec -- A military spokesman has indicated that the big dislodging operation that began on Monday has been successful because the guerrillas are retreating from towns that had been under their control for several months. Attacking from north of the Torola River, the advance has currently been unstoppable from Carolina to Corinto. Meanguera, Jocoaitique, Arambala, Joateca, Perquin, San Fernando, Torola, and Villa El Rosario have been recovered.

The military commander reported that the rebels have not put up a fight but are fleeing. Therefore, no dead are reported. The only skirmish was in El Volcancillo, but no casualties were reported. "We know that we may have bloody skirmishes once we trap them between the advancing troops and the troops waiting to block their way out," a spokesman said. To give more emphasis to his statement the spokesman added that "we have a fleet of helicopters, artillery, and combat and reconnaissance aircraft to annihilate them." The soldier added that in the coming days the forces may be able to recover a town a day due to the resistance they will encounter. He concluded by stating that "we hope those people will think and surrender before being decimated by our forces." "The guerrillas must realize that our system has experienced a radical change and that they are not facing troops without leaders, but well-trained soldiers commanded by officers."

"Up to yesterday we found no bodies, but we have found the equipment they have been forced to abandon as their retreat becomes increasingly difficult."

ARMY OPERATIONS IN SAN MIGUEL, MORAZAN REPORTED

PA270320 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Some 25 troops have died in 8 days of military operations in the northern part of San Miguel and Morazan departments, military sources in these departments have confirmed.

According to these sources, most of the troops were killed in midweek clashes near Ciudad Barrios and subsequent clashes north of Osicala.

The media's access to northern San Miguel, Ciudad Barrios, and Sesori has been restricted. These are the areas where the guerrillas have sought to draw the attention of the press. Meanwhile, both the Army and the guerrillas have mutually blamed each other for the activities carried out in Sesori, north of San Miguel Department. These reports have been confirmed by the civilians who managed to escape what they described as a hell prior to Christmas.

Those civilians who fled the town and managed to arrive either in the capital or in San Miguel say that the guerrillas initially mortared the outskirts of the city, wounding several local people. However, after the subversives withdrew, planes bombed almost the same places that had been attacked earlier by the guerrillas, those who left Sesori last weekend reported.

FPL COMMANDO GROUP OCCUPIES RADIO SONORA

PA262116 Paris AFP in Spanish 1953 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Dec (AFP) -- Members of the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), today occupied Radio Sonora and transmitted a message reaffirming the organization's unity and criticizing its leadership. The rebels, an urban commando group of the Clara Ramirez Front, affirmed that "there is unity" in the FPL ranks, and disavowed a dissident movement identified with the name of Salvador Cayetano Carpio, the dead guerrilla leader.

The occupation of Radio Sonora was carried out at noon in the Dario Building in the heart of San Salvador, where Sonora's FM transmitters are located. The occupiers were two youths, who arrived carrying two gift-wrapped packages. After threatening and immobilizing five employees, they transmitted a recording and left a box supposedly filled with explosives.

The transmission lasted some 15 minutes. It was interrupted by the police after they discovered that the bomb was in fact an empty box. The rebels' message criticized the U.S. invasion of Grenada and blamed the FPL leadership for the group's internal rift.

FMLN CALLS FOR NATIONWIDE DEFENSE SHELTERS

PA240249 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the FMLN in El Salvador; date not given]

[Text] In the face of the genocidal Army's indiscriminate and increasing air and artillery attacks on defenseless civilians in the country's various cantons, hamlets, and towns, the FMLN announces that:

1. A nationwide campaign for defense against genocidal bombings will be launched so that the peasant civilian population can defend itself against the indiscriminate attacks being perpetrated by the dictatorship's Army and Air Force.

2. For this campaign, the FMLN calls upon all Salvadoran peasants and the residents of the hamlets, cantons, and towns in the country's interior, and urge them to build anti-aircraft shelters to protect their families in emergencies. They must also build shelters to protect civilians moving about in the towns.

3. Anti-aircraft shelters must be built in every house, block, hamlet, and canton, in order to protect civilians.

4. The FMLN will issue instructions in each town on how to build these shelters. The people must remain alert.

GUATEMALA

FCD SUBMITS VIEWS ON DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW

PA232225 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] The Democratic Civic Front [FCD] has submitted its opinions on the Supreme Electoral Tribunal's draft electoral law to the Government Ministry. Along with the party's written opinion, FCD Secretary General Danilo Barillas sent the following note to Interior Minister Gustavo Lopez:

As you may notice from our document, we find that the draft contains countless flaws. We feel certain that this law does not respond to the current administration's promises, to the opinions expressed by the country's political groups, nor to the Guatemalan people's expectations.

We send this response with the hope that this time the government will indeed listen to the opinion of the country's various political sectors.

On a previous occasion, when a draft registration law was made the subject of consultation, the government did not listen to the majority views expressed by the country's political sectors.

MEJIA: ELECTION DELAY DUE TO PARTIES' PROPOSALS

PA241650 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The electoral law ruling hurt the large parties and helped the small ones. The chief of state's decision not to discuss the electoral law again until next year hurt the large -- or traditional -- parties and helped the small ones.

The traditional parties want a prompt electoral process because this would give them an advantage over the parties that are presently being formed. The small parties, on the other hand, want a delay because this would give them time to get better organized.

The electoral law will not be issued this year, as had been expected. The chief of state was very clear yesterday in stating that the electoral law will not be issued this year as had been expected. He had said that it would be issued on the 15th [no month specified]. Later, he had said that the law would be issued once opinions on the issue were known. However, he said yesterday that he will meet with politicians next year to discuss the proposals they have made to change the law. General Mejia Victores justified the delay by saying that the proposals had caused it.

The chief of state's statement indicates that elections could be called in February. He said that the law allows up to 30 days to call elections. In January, he will meet with politicians to discuss the law, and the discussions could take a week. If the law is issued according to procedure, it would then be issued around the middle of the month. If the call is made within 30 days, we would be talking about mid-February.

ARMY WILL TRY TO OBTAIN ARMS SEIZED BY U.S.

PA241635 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] The Army will take steps to secure the arms seized in the United States. The Army will soon begin taking steps aimed at securing return of the arms that the United States seized after it prevented their shipment to Guatemala.

The chief of state yesterday explained that the shipment was composed of old rifles being brought to the country to train the Army. Apparently, the rifles are old M-1's and crank Remington's, according to Mejia Victores. This type of rifle is no longer used by any army. The equipment is to be used for target shooting and drill.

Former President Rios Montt had asked the United States to donate old rifles for use by civil defense patrols. However, General Mejia Victores reported yesterday that the arms had been purchased, not donated. He noted: no one gives anything for free. If the materiel is not sent to Guatemala, the Army will take steps to have it returned, as it did when an Argentine plane with arms for our country was intecepted in Barbados.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICE DESTROYED BY FIRE

PA231850 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Terrorists set fire today to the government's information office, located in a building in the southern part of this capital. There were no injuries, but damage was estimated at over (?850,000) quetzales. According to initial reports, the terrorists went directly to the recording and television eqyipment room, poured gasoline over the equipment and set it on fire. The building was destroyed by fire following an explosion. The destroyed equipment belonged to the government's information organization.

The leftist extremist organization ORPA] [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] claimed responsibility for the attack through a telephone call at approximately 1520.

U.S. EMBASSY EVACUATED AFTER BOMB THREAT 22 DEC

PA232134 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] Over 300 employees of and visitors to the U.S. Embassy, located on Reforma Avenue and 7th Street in Zone 10, were rapidly evacuated at 1430 yesterday in response to an anonymous phone call claiming that a powerful bomb would soon explode on the premises. The call was made immediately after urban guerrillas belonging to the Armed People's Revolutionary Organization, ORPA, attacked and destroyed the government's public relations office a short distance from the embassy. The embassy employees were sent home with instructions to return to work today. Embassy security guards and policemen made a careful search of the embassy but failed to find the bomb, and the threatened explosion did not materialize.

GRENADE ATTACK ON NICARAGUAN EMBASSY REPORTED

PA260153 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2337 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Last night, unidentified persons hurled a hand grenade at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Guatemala. No casualties have been reported.

A national police spokesman today told ACAN-EFE that the action was carried out so quickly the embassy guards could not respond to the attack. The police spokesman added that so far no political organization has claimed responsibility for the attack.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT APPOINTS FIVE NEW CABINET MEMBERS

PA231455 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Resolution No 841 issued by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova in Tegucigalpa on 22 December]

[Text] 1. The following citizens have been appointed members of the government cabinet effective 2 January, 1984:

Secretary of State for Economy and Commerce: Camilo Rivera Giron

Secretary of State for Communications, Public Works and Transport: Carlos Handal Handal

Executive Secretary of the Higher Council of Econmic Planning, Consuplane: Edgardo Sevilla Idiaquez

Economy Under Secretary of State for Integration Affairs and Foreign Trade: Jose Enrique Mejia Ucles

Under Secretary of State for Public Works: Miguel Lardizabal Becerra

2. The appointees will take office after being legally sworn in.

To be published. [dated] Tegucigalpa, December 1983.

NATIONAL PARTY REFUSES TO JOIN CABINET WITH PLH

PA231515 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 19

[Excerpt] San Pedro Cortez, 21 Dec -- "The National Party of Honduras, PNH, will not agree to join the cabinet beside the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH]," Wilfredo Gonzalez Medina, the PLH Central Committee attorney, has told EL HERALDO.

Gonzalez stated that although his party has received no official invitation from the PLH, PNH national authorities nevertheless decided not to join the cabinet even if an offer is made by President Suazo Cordova. Gonzalez said the PNH will not participate in the current public administration, because it believes the PLH is responsible for what this government does, whether good or bad.

Any PNH member who accepts a public post with the current administration will do so as an individual and not on behalf of the party of the lone star banner, Gonzalez added.

The attorney said that the PNH is preparing to wage an opposition campaign against the PLH beginning next month.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES BISHOP SCHLAEFFER'S ARRIVAL

PA232040 Paris AFP In English 1844 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Dec 23 (AFP) -- The Honduran Government announced today that American-born Catholic Bishop Salvador Schlaeffer, who Nicaragua said Tuesday had been murdered by rightist rebels, arrived safely in Honduras today and will give a press conference tomorrow in Tegucigalpa, the capital.

Bishop Schlaeffer, Wisconsin-born, has been since 1970 the bishop of Bluefields, a fishing village on Nicaragua's remote Atlantic Coast populated largely by Miskito Indians.

Tuesday, Nicaragua had announced the prelate had been killed by anti-Sandinist rebels while he was resisting arrest.

Yesterday, U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Anthony Quainton said Bishop Schlaeffer was alive and had been leading a group of 2,000 Miskitos, who claim persecution from the Managua authorities, to Honduras.

Today, MISURASATA, the Miskito refugee organization, confirmed here that Bishop Schlaeffer had arrived in Honduras and was accompanied by 3,000 Indians. MISURASATA's spokesman asked that the refugees be taken over by the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Nicarguan Conference of Bishops in Managua said the prelate was "accompanied by some 300 counter-revolutionaries" who had not kidnapped or killed him but were escorting the march toward safer territory.

Paz Barnica Denies Kidnapping

PA232316 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2145 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Today, the Honduran Government, through a note sent by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to his Nicaraguan counterpart Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, categorically rejected the baseless accusations made by the Nicaraguan Government against our country on 20 December.

The Honduran protest note explained to the Sandinist regime that, according to these charges, Somozist mercenary groups left from Honduras to attack Francia Sirpe, kidnapping and leading the majority of the people, who could not escape, through the jungle to Honduras. These people included Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, Father Gwendolyn, and two other clergymen. The Nicaraguan Government held Honduras responsible for their fate.

I choose to believe, Mr Minister, that these false accusations and determinations result from a lack of true information, and not from a premeditated and hateful campaign to discredit the constitutional Honduran Government and to cover up the harsh reality that Nicaragua is experiencing, Paz Barnica said.

Once more, the Honduran diplomat added, I stress most emphatically that the Honduran Armed Forces are not participating, either directly or indirectly, in the internal conflict that covers Nicaragua in blood. The mere fact that our border is close to places where armed clashes have taken place does not imply our participation or complicity, for it is very well known that there are also outbreaks of rebellion in the country's central and southern regions.

He also emphasized that the residents of Francia Sirpe and other Miskito communities were not kidnapped and taken to Honduras against their will, saying:

On the contrary, reports from the site of the incident indicated that more than 2,000 people, including men, women, children, and the elderly, escaped from the concentration camp that Francia Shirpe has become and fled to Honduras from the merciless repression that the Nicaraguan Government carries out against the Miskito people.

If they arrive in our territory, Your Excellency, you may be sure that our country will give them the refuge, peace, and freedom that they are seeking.

As for Msgr Schlaeffer, it is impossible not to question the unusual zeal shown by a government that is not exactly famous for its respect for the Catholic Church and its leaders. According to his messages intercepted in this capital, the illustrious prelate was not kidnapped or murdered by anti-Sandinists, as was hastily announced by the official voice of Managua. On the contrary, he is guiding his persecuted flock to Hondurus under fire from Sandinist planes and troops.

It is ironical that, under these circumstances, Your Excellency dares to blame the Honduran Government for the fate of the bishop and his companions. Only God can protect their lives while they remain in Nicaragua. The Honduran people pray for them.

In conclusion, Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica told the Nicaraguan foreign minister the following: My government rejects your excellency's pretext in all of its extremes and states its repudiation of this attempt to exploit, for propaganda purposes the plight of human beings who are merely trying to escape the tyrannical oppression they experience.

[Dated] Tegucigalpa, 23 December.

[Signed] Directorate of Press and Information of the Foreign Secretariat.

Havana Reports Schlaeffer's Arrival

FL241422 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] AFP has reported that the bishop of Bluefields, Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, has arrived in Honduras leading 500 Nicaraguan Miskito Indians. These FRANCE PRESSE reports affirm that, upon his arrival in Tegucigalpa, the cleric stated that he had been taken to Honduras to accompany the Miskito Indians, who had decided to go to that country.

Last Wednesday, the Nicaraguan Government issued a statement in which it reported the assassination of Bishop Schlaeffer by a group of counterrevolutionaries, which had entered from Honduras and kidnapped Miskito residents of Francis Sirpe and the cleric.

Later, the U.S. State Department which apparently maintains contact with the counterrevolutionaries, officiallly informed the Government of Nicaragua that Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer was alive and marching toward Honduras at the head of the group of Miskitos.

The versions stating that Schaleffer had been murdered were supplied by Indians who had managed to escape from their captors.

The Nicaraguan Government has denounced the new actions by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, who are supported and directed by the Reagan administration, as a maneuver that obstructs the latest measures adopted for the reunification of the Miskito Indians, such as the recently declared amnesty.

ARMY DENIES ENTERING, ATTACKING NICARAGUA

PA231635 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 50

[Text] Honduran Army troops have never entered Nicaraguan territory or attacked the Sandinist Peoples Army. This statement was made today by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat in referring to a note sent by the Nicaraguan Government which had recently untruthfully reported that two trucks carrying 30 Honduran soldiers had entered an area known as La Reforma, 5 km northwest of Somotillo, Chinandega Department. Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica sent a note to Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Mrs Nora Astorga refusing, on behalf of the government, to accept such an accusation. Paz Barnica's note points out that the imaginary events described in the Nicaraguan note apparently are in line with the Nicaraguan Government's absurd maneuver to appear as the victim of fictitious attacks from abroad, for the purpose of public relations gains and to hide the domestic nature of the conflict it faces.

Nicaraguans Ridicule

In another press communique issued yesterday, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat denies international reports, set in motion by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, that a bishop, several priests, and hundreds of Nicaraguan Miskitos have been kidnapped and forcefully taken to Honduran territory by anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionaries who had the support of Honduran Army soldiers. The Honduran Foreign Secretariat's note states: The Honduran Government, in view of the Nicaraguan regime's latest story, which is part of a propaganda offensive against our country, declares:

1. It is completely false that anti-Sandinists armed groups have left Honduras to kidnap a U.S. bishop who lives in Zelaya, as well as priests and hundreds of Miskitos.

2. The charge by the Managua Marxist military government that Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, the bishop of Zelaya, two priests, and 750 Indians have been kidnapped and taken to Honduras, is ridiculous, imaginary, and without foundation. Supposing that there had been a guerrilla action, who could have kidnapped and mobilized such a large number of people, considering the limitations of guerrilla actions?

3. The new Managua regime's story is intended to confuse the people -- especially the U.S. people -- to harm Honduras' image, and to create a smokescreen to hide the religious persecution that exists in Nicaragua, persecution which makes evident the anti-Christian, intolerant nature of the power apparatus installed in Nicaragua behind the back of the people.

Tegucigalpa, 21 December 1983

International News Directorate

NICARAGUA

PANAMANIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES WITH DOCUMENT

PA240322 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Panamanian Deputy Minister Jose Maria Cabrera arrived in Nicaragua moments ago, bringing with him the document containing the procedures to be followed in implementing the commitments established in the Contadora Group's Document of Objectives.

Accompanied by four Panamanian Foreign Ministry officials, Cabrera met in the Protocol Room of the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga to whom he presented the document.

Upon his arrival, Cabrera told newsmen that the Contadora Group offers an alternative for peace in the region. He said that his trip was prompted by the need to present the document to all of the Central American governments as one of the primary steps in finding a peaceful solution for the region.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SCHLAEFFER KIDNAPPING

Ortega Interviewed

PA231410 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0334 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Interview with Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, on 23 December in Managua -- recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reported] Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, the people would like to know the significance of the State Department's involvement in the kidnapping of Monsignor Schlaeffer.

[Ortega] One fact is clear, and that is that the CIA is directing operations in the area against the Nicaraguan people. There is another obvious fact -- that millions have been invested, several million dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars that could have [words indistinct] in a covert action against Nicaragua. Some $24 million were recently approved for continuation of covert operations against Nicaragua. Thus, the terrorist actions currently being unleashed along the Honduran border and now in Nicaragua's Atlantic area [words indistinct] with the kidnapping of Msgr Schlaeffer, confirm the results and effects of a policy sponsored and financed by the U.S. Government and carried out by the CIA, using the Somozist Guardsmen and counterrevolutionaries who are of Nicaraguan origin.

[Reporter] How can we view this situation? For example, the superior of the order to which Msgr Schlaeffer belongs told us yesterday that while in Panama he was told that the State Department had said he was in good health and there was nothing to worry about. An AFP dispatch today with a Washington dateline says the State Department does not know anything about the whereabouts of the U.S. citizens, referring to Msgr Schlaeffer and the other priest.

[Ortega] Well, this (?shows) there is coordination [words indistinct] and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and therefore they have reason to be better informed than we are.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, one last question: the Episcopal Conference has asked the appointment of commission to visit the places where Msgr Schlaeffer was kidnapped. Has the government decided anything on this?

[Ortega] A delegation has been sent to the Atlantic Zone. A representative of the order to which Msgr Schlaeffer belongs was in the delegation [words indistinct] The bishops have been told that they can go to the zone. What is clear in all this, and is important, is that it is handled in a mature and responsible way so that it does not become an issue of propaganda against the Nicaraguan people.

This is a censurable criminal action which cannot be concealed under any pretext. This is obvious. We hope Msgr Schlaeffer survives this criminal action alive. This is our hope; this is what we want. We want them to release Msgr Schlaeffer. We are sure that the statements we have made [words indistinct] will shed light on these criminal acts.

Church Requests Rescue Halt

PA231555 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, AFP -- The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference has asked the Sandinist government to suspend a military operation to rescue Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer and several hundred Miskito Indians who are traveling to Honduras accompanied by about 300 counterrevolutionaries. In a communique issued last night, the Catholic hierarchy said that the international news media has indicated that the bishop of Bluefields has not been kidnapped, but is instead accompanying many Indians who are looking for refuge in a safer zone.

The Episcopal Conference statement questioned government reports on 20 December which indicated that Schlaeffer had been kidnapped in Francia Sirpe, about 400 km northeast of Managua, and presumably killed a day later.

Even though the government yesterday denied reports about Schlaeffer's assassination by the anti-Sandinists of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force], it reiterated that the Bluefields bishop was kidnapped and that his life is in danger. The bishops do not share this view.

Meanwhile, the Episcopal Conference -- which yesterday afternoon held an emergecny meeting in Managua -- energetically protested disrespectful and slanderous statements of individuals who accused Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando of being responsible for the events involving Schlaeffer. The Catholic hierarchy's position coincided with that of the U. S. Government, which said it has information indicating that Schlaeffer is alive and is on the way to Honduras with several hundred Miskitos. The Sandinist government had announced that Army troops had been deployed to the site of the events. The church asked the government to suspend this action, presumably so as not to increase the danger to the lives of the bishop and the Miskitos.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has stated that the Schlaeffer case is part of a criminal action by mercenary forces at the service of the CIA in an attempt to undermine the government's efforts for the reunification of the Miskitos. It added that the action seeks to sabotage the recent Nicaraguan measures to promote peace in Central America.

'Rescue' Operation Described

PA231605 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer was violently kidnapped by the enemies of the revolution. This has been confirmed by the Miskitos Otto Borsch, 55, and Tepino David Castro, 22, who managed to escape from the assassins as they were being taken away along with the other people of Francia Sirpe on Tuesday 20 December. Details of this incident were provided at a news conference that Commander William Ramirez, minister delegate of the Covenment Junta in Special Zone No 1, Northern Zelaya, held yesterday in Puerto Cabezas.

Commander Ramirez said: We want to rescue the churchmen and all the others alive. This is why the EPS [Sandinist People Army] has launched an -- operation in which the Sandinist Air Force is not participating, because we do not want to recover dead bodies. Here is Commander Ramirez' statement: [Begin recording]

Yesterday we learned that Father Salvador's whereabouts were not known, and there was speculation that he had been killed. However, this information has not yet been confirmed.

No traces have been found to confirm this situation and the last people who saw him -- who are present here -- saw him alive, being taken away by force. At this point we are completely uncertain. The area is muddy, very difficult, and mountainous, and the tasks that both the EPS and the Interior Ministry are carrying out are being undertaken with the utmost care, taking the lives of all civilians into consideration, particularly the lives of the kidnapped priests and deacons. For this reason all air operations have been banned.

The possessions of the people of Francia Sirpe are intact. Nothing has been touched except for what the counterrevolutionaries destroyed. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique

PA241505 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 23 December 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Upon receiving confirmation that Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer arrived in Honduran territory, where he gave a press conference, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry expresses its satisfaction that he is alive despite the difficult situation he encountered and declares the following:

1. The fact that Msgr Schlaeffer was taken from Nicaragua to Honduran territory together with civilian population by armed counterrevolutionaries, and that they were welcomed by Honduran authorities, as well as the U.S. Government's official statements giving a detailed account of the march in which Msgr Schlaeffer participated, only serve to confirm the participation of the Honduran Government and the U.S. Government itself in the constant aggression against Nicaragua.

2. It has been totally proven, through Msgr Schlaeffer's statement, that armed counterrevolutionaries, whom he describes as Miskito troops, abducted Nicaraguan citizens, forcing them to leave their country against their will.

3. The Nicaraguan Government is aware of the difficult circumstances under which Msgr Schlaeffer's statement occurred. This statement was made in a country where constant counterrevolutionary actions are promoted and organized that are the cause of so much mourning and grief for our peoples.

4. The Nicaraguan Government has facilitated the dissemination of the entirety of the press conference that Msgr Schlaeffer and the other religious men who accompany him gave today in Tegucigalpa. During this press conference, where members of the MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama] counterrevolutionary organization were present, evident contradictions occurred that it will be necessary to analyze more carefully, above all when Msgr Schlaeffer returns to Nicaragua and feels free to give his account to our homeland. Msgr Schlaeffer and the other religious men who accompany him have all the guarantees of the revolutionary government to return to Nicaragua at any time they so desire.

5. In addition, it has to be taken into consideration that the slanderous tale that Sandinist Air Force planes bombed the civilian population that was being taken to Honduras by armed counterrevolutionaries has been completely dispelled.

Finally, the Nicaraguan Government wants to say that there are no restrictions whatsoever on Nicaraguan citizens leaving the country whenever they so desire. Our borders are, and will continue to be, open for Nicaraguans' free departure or entry. Therefore, the CIA's propaganda in the United States -- that Nicaraguans are forced to leave our country in large numbers -- is false. [Dated] Managua, 23 December 1983, year of struggle for peace and sovereignty [Signed] Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua

Ortega Comments

PA242230 Paris AFP in Spanish 2121 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Managua, 24 Dec (AFP) -- Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said here today that the Reagan administration hoped to use the controversial case of Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer, the bishop of Bluefields, as an excuse for military intervention in Nicaragua.

This was Ortega's explanation as to why the Sandinist Government took the risk of noting the possibility that Bishop Schlaeffer had been killed by the counterrevolutionaries.

"We acted in this way in order to stay a step ahead of them, to force them to unmask themselves, and to prevent the murder (of the bishop), which would have been used as a pretext for attacking us," Ortega told a group of newsmen during an official reception. The Nicaraguan leader would not say, however, whether Msgr Schlaeffer was aware of these plans.

"I believe that this matter is very complex. We can tell you that Nicaragua's enemies will try to capitalize on it," Ortega responded when asked if the Sandinist Government had lost the battle in this case. Ortega also made reference to the amount of information provided by the U.S. State Department on the 3-day drama experienced by the Miskito people of Francia Sirpe, who traveled to Honduras under the "safe-keeping" [custodiada] of anti-Sandinist rebels.

Meanwhile, two Miskito deacons who returned to Managua from Honduras declared that many of the inhabitants of Francia Sirpe were forced to leave by the counterrevolutionaries. Repeating statements they had made in Honduras, the deacons said: "We left with them in order to save the bishop, because the counterrevolutionaries assured us that the road to Puerto Cabezas had been mined."

Havana on Aftermath of Incident

PA250310 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Deacons Isidoro Alvarado and Francisco Baker, whom the counterrevolutionaries took to Honduras along with Bishop Salvador Schlaeffer, another clergyman, and hundreds of Miskitos, have returned to Nicaragua and have provided details of their kidnapping.

At a news conference held at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, Alvarado explained that last Tuesday, after listening to a 15-minute shootout in Francia Sirpe, Bishop Schlaeffer and the other clergymen decided to return to Puerto Cabezas. He added that one of the counterrevolutionaries who had attacked Francia Sirpe told them that if they chose to return to Puerto Cabezas their safety could not be guaranteed, because the raod had been mined. These statements by Deacons Alvarado and Baker, who said that the Guardsmen of Francia Sirpe were held captive along with the rest of the contingent, contradicts Msgr Schlaeffer's statement yesterday in Tegucigalpa that they had voluntarily accompanied the Miskitos on their difficult march to Honduras.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has charged that the communication and coordination that exists between the U.S. Government and the counterrevolutionary groups that operate from Honduras has been made evident in this case.

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has commented in this connection that the statements issued by the U.S. State Department demonstrate that the CIA directs such activities.

FRG DEVELOPMENT AID TO REMAIN FROZEN

PA231453 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Bonn -- The aid for development that the FRG Government granted to Nicaragua almost 2 years ago will still not be delivered, Economic Cooperation Minister Juergen Warnke announced today. Despite the statements by certain government politicians regarding the new slant that should be given to relations with Nicaragua, Warnke maintained his well-known opposition to the Sandinist process, which he regards as a factor of destabilization in Central America.

In language deemed undiplomatic, the Social Christian politician said that credits for some 40 million marks, about $15 million, will remain frozen. He also reiterated his charge that Managua wants to export revolution and therefore does not deserve FRG support. His charge is in contrast with a statement a few days ago by Christian Democratic Deputy (Karl Ramers), who praised the measures adopted by the Nicaraguan Government and demanded that the agreed aid be delivered.

EMBASSY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON ATTACK IN GUATEMALA

PA262251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2111 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Embassy in Guatemala today blamed the "fascist Somozist bands" for the attack on 24 December against that diplomatic mission.

"The authors of the attack can only be members of the fascist Somozist bands who, supported by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, are conspiring against the Sandinist government," stated a communique released today by the embassy.

The communique said that the attack was carried out by several persons who fired machinegun bursts and hurled a fragmentation grenade from a moving vehicle at the embassy building. The communique also expressed appreciation for the police cooperation offered by the Guatemalan Government.

A group calling itself "Counterrevolutionary Solidarity" ["Solidaridad Contrarevolucionaria"], totally unknown here, claimed responsibility for the action in phone calls to the local media.

Last Thursday the U.S. Embassy here was evacuated following an anonymous call reporting a bomb on the premisis. On the same day six guerrillas of the clandestine Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA) exploded a bomb in the presidential public relations office.

GOVERNMENT DECLARES PCD CONVENTION VOID

PA242130 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] Mario Rappaccioli, president of the Democratic Conservative Party [PCD], elected to that position by the Great Convention of the PCD on 23 November, which has just been declared void by the Supreme Court, was interviewed by LA PRENSA. This is the interview:

[Question] What is your opinion of the Supreme Court ruling declaring void everything that was decided by the PCD in the election of its national officials?

[Rappaccioli] The Supreme Court ruling declaring void the activities of the PCD in the elections to choose departmental officials and its national board of directors is unprecedented in the history of Nicaragua. Not even during the totalitarian and discredited dictatorship of the Somoza family did any court intervene in the internal affairs of the political parties.

This unbelievable intervention is just a warning that the present and future actions of the parties which want the democratization of Nicaragua will be prohibited by law and that the future of these parties depends strictly on government criteria. In other words, they are taking a new stand in which any party with ideologies that oppose Marxism-Leninism will soon cease to exist.

[Question] What is the government trying to do by declaring the PCD convention of 19 November void?

[Rappaccioli] There are many citizens, regardless of their political and democratic affiliation, who say that all the maneuvers carried out by a certain group of citizens of conservative affiliation are aimed at paving the way to form a conservative miniparty that will pretend to oppose the FSLN so that it can proclaim that there is political pluralism in Nicaragua and, what's more, that there are conservatives holding important positions within the government.

[Question] What will PCD authorities do?

[Rappaccioli] The great 19 November convention, through the unanimous vote of 178 convention members -- that is approximately 86 percent of the convention members in the entire country -- drafted and signed a document which includes Conclusion No 3, which states:

"It is decided that all the PCD authorities elected in this national convention are the sole and legitimate authorities of the party for the period they were elected. They will not be changed despite any subsequent protest; they will be maintained regardless of consequences."

[Question] What would happen if the government demands that the PCD elect new leaders?

[Rappaccioli] Assuming that the PCD had no alternative but to abide by the Supreme Court ruling? We would have to hold another convention, which would show, once more, the strength of the PCD, its human capabilities, and its specific stand toward Nicaragua's problems, because the party's elected authorities would be confirmed in their posts, not by 86 percent, but by 100 percent of the convention's members.

OPPOSITION PARTIES UNCERTAIN ON ELECTORAL STRATEGY

PA242147 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] On the national plan to hold elections next year, Social Christian Party [PSC] President Agustin Jarquin has said that the parties that comprise the Ramior Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board have not yet decided whether they will run alone or as a group. As for the electoral system to be used, Jarquin said that they want the kind of elections that they have sought, in which each individual can express his personal will directly.

In his capacity as a party leader and militant, Jarquin responded to a question on the PSC and the elections by saying that his party includes laborers, peasants, and small businessmen. He declined, however, to specify the number of PSC members.

Meanwhile, Revolutionary Patriotic Front Coordinator Gustavo Tablada said that the purpose for the elections is to make the people aware of the objectives to be secured through their vote.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION POLICY ANALYZED

PA252312 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1917 GMT 25 Dec 83

[By Jesus Montesinos]

[Text] Managua, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist government is losing the battle of information at this moment, according to foreign diplomatic observers in Managua, who are closely following the Nicaraguan revolutionary process.

Foreign correspondents accredited in Managua feel that the lack of satisfactory information on the part of the government is due to problems of internal organization and to existing tensions among the different tendencies and personalities of the FSLN. Usually, the information system of the Government Junta, the ministries, and the FSLN operates to block any type of direct access to information.

Media cadres of the government and the Sandinist front refuse to comment on any newsworthy incident, claiming to lack higher authorization to do so. In order to gain access to direct sources of information, it is necessary to fill out a large number of forms, which delays any type of informative verification for days or weeks.

The usual government spokesman claim that the CIA organizes information campaigns to discredit the image of the Sandinist revolution before world opinion.

Sandinist authorities recognize the role that the image of the revolution plays in the consolidation of the Nicaraguan process, but also claim the existence of serious internal tensions affecting the control of information.

Foreign correspondents in Managua feel that concerning political opposition and the border conflict with Honduras and Costa Rica at this moment the FSLN maintains the same information policy observed by Anastasio Somoza in his time.

The lack of coordination and the excessive control of information on 21 December provoked a serious moment of tension between the Defense Ministry [as received] and the Sandinist Government Junta in relation to the official communique on the supposed death of Monsignor Schlaeffer, bishop of Bluefields.

The first information on this was supplied by the Foreign Ministry. The Government Junta tried to play up the news of the murder, which was denied by the Foreign Ministry. On 22 December, the General Directorate of State Security voiced its opinion on the disappearance of Msgr Schlaeffer, and again on 23 December the Foreign Ministry released the last official communique.

PASTORA DENIES ARGUELLO AUTHORITY TO CONTACT FDN

PA240416 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Eden Pastora sent a communique to the local press yesterday denying that Alexis Arguello, the world boxing champion who has joined the anti-Sandinist struggle, has the authority to make contact with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, which is fighting in the north.

The communique, published yesterday, says: "In regard to an ACAN-EFE report of 13 December 1983, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, General Command, reports to the Nicaraguan people and the world that: Companeros Alexis Arguello, Miguel Urroz and Patricio Jerez have been assigned the strict mission by the ARDE General Command to go to the Republic of Honduras and to make contact with members of the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, who have allegedly gone to Honduran territory. This delegation does not have authority to make official contact with the FDN, nor to do anything else.

From the mountains of Nicaragua, 15 December 1983

Eden Pastora Gomez, ARDE Armed Forces General Commander

FDN CLAIMS SANDINIST HELICOPTER DOWNED

PA241755 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1518 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) groups have downed a Sandinist Air Force helicopter in Jinotega in the continued offensive that the anti-Sandinists are carrying out in northern Nicaragua. According to a rebel spokesman in Tegucigalpa, the helicopter was downed when the Managua Army attacked insurgent positions in Paso Real del Cua with helicopter gunships.

Paso Real del Cua was seized by guerrilla groups on Tuesday after the Sandinist Battalion 36-24 was expelled the clandestine Radio 15 September reported. The station also reported military actions by the anti-Sandinist groups against militarized installations of PROAGRO [National Agricultural and Livestock Products Enterprise], MICOIN [Domestic Trade Ministry] ENABAS [Nicaraguan Basic Food Enterprises], ENCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise], the Santa Ana farm, El Trebol, Quebrada de los Aparejos, and Rio Abajo del Cua.

The station said that the Diriangen Task Force, led by Commander "Tono," is directing attacks that began Friday morning and continued at dawn today.

Reinforcements sent by the Sandinist People's Army in military trucks were ambushed and forced to flee "in disarray," the source noted.

FDN FORCES SEIZE 'STRATEGIC' HILLS IN NORTH

PA251915 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1736 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) announced today in Tegucigalpa that it has seized the hills of Santa Cruz and Las Pilitas near the town of San Fernando, Nueva Segovia Department, northern Nicaragua.

According to the rebel report, the two "strategic" hills were seized by a new FDN unit that dislodged the Sandinist Battalion 22-32.

In Las Pilitas, the anti-Sandinists killed 13 Nicaraguan Army soldiers and lost 3 commandoes, the guerrilla source said.

An FDN spokesman said the occupation of these hills is "very important" to consolidation of rebel positions in the Nueva Segovia rural area. The operation against Santa Cruz and Las Pilitas took place as part of a continuous anti-Sandinist offensive that has been going on in northern Nicaragua since the first week of December.

ANPP SESSION CONCLUDES WITH CASTRO ADDRESS

FL231420 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] A documented statement by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro concerning problems of the national economy and characterized by a realistic spirit was a high point of the fifth regular session of the second meeting of the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP] which has just concluded at the Palace of Conventions.

Fidel Castro participated in the discussion of the report presented by Deputy Humberto Perez, president of the JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board] on the results of the 1983 Economic and Social Development Plan in which a 5-percent increase over 1982 was attained, and on the draft of next year's plan.

In his report, Humberto Perez emphasized that for 1984, it is projected that the overall social product [producto social global] will increase by between 4 and 4.5 percent, and national income will increase by between 5.5 and 6 percent. The budget for 1984 shows income of 11,471,000,000 pesos, with increases for education, housing, repair and maintenance, community services, public health, science and technology, culture and art, sports, security, and social services.

The proposition to designate 1984 as the Year of the 25th anniversay of the triumph of the revolution was received with applause by the deputies.

Finally, the sole plan for economic and social development for 1984 was approved.

ANPP President Flavio Bravo, in a statement opening the session, reported the Council of State's decision to name Adolfo Diaz Suarez as minister of agriculture, which was confirmed by the deputies' votes.

In all, four laws were approved by this session of the ANPP.

It was announced that in July of next year, the deputies will study the report of the People's Government Provincial Assembly of Sancti Spiritus, a new province that emerged from the new political-administrative alignment, and that of the Food Industry Ministry.

The report of the People's Government Provincial Assembly of the City of Havana Province, presented by its president, Oscar Fernandez Mell, projects the continued improvement of the different branches of the economy, construction, transportation, public health, renovation, trade and food industry in the capital of the hemisphere's first socialist state.

In discussions on the intensification of the maternity risk care program, the decreasing mortality rate throughout the entire country was noted· this has allowed our country to attain favorable rates in relation to other Third World countries.

At the final session, in which the 2 days of the fifth regular session of the second meeting of the ANPP culminated, there was a speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

COMMENTARY VIEWS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S STATEMENTS

FL241940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has made new statements on international subjects, characterized by his usual aggressiveness and fascist cynicism.

Regarding Nicaragua, Mr Reagan said that recent proposals made by the Sandinist government are insufficient to solve the Central American crisis. The chief of state, who is artificially provoking the Central American crisis, had the nerve to try to give advice to the Sandinists. Reagan said that the Nicaraguans must restore the principles of their revolution, which does not even deserve a comment, because the Reagan administration is desperately trying to destroy the Sandinist revolution.

The U.S. President also referred to the invasion of Grenada, and he had the impudence to repeat his classic lie that this was not an invasion but rather a rescue mission.

On the subject of so-called East-West relations, Ronald Reagan recognized the increase in international tension caused by the installation of medium-range missiles in Europe. From a position of strength, he insisted that the installation of these missiles and the failure of the Geneva negotiations are just a part of the negotiation process. The Yankee President added that the increase of the aggressive capability of the United States and its NATO allies has made a confrontation less likely, apparently forgetting that never before has the world faced the possibility of total extermination as it does now, due to the very measures of confrontation that Washington has patronized.

UNGO CITED ON WARNING ON U.S. INTENTIONS IN C.A.

PA270222 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The United States has specific military plans, not political solutions, for Central America. The government of President Ronald Reagan is set on a military scheme that includes an increase in U.S. intervention and its extension to all of Central America.

This accusation has been made by Guillermo Ungo, president of the Salvadoran FDR, who has warned of U.S. plans to increase its military presence in Central America in 1984 with the consequent expansion of the conflicts in the area. Ungo said that the armed forces of the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras regimes are instruments of this military escalation, and that Washington has assigned a leading party to them in its plans for Central America. He added that, notwithstanding, Washington always leaves open the possibility of repeating a brutal direct military intervention such as that staged against Grenada last October.

In Central America, Ungo added, the military solution on which the U.S. Government has concentrated its efforts is failing, which may lead to a dangerous chain of events should Washington insist on modifying the course of the war in El Salvador. Such objectives are confirmed by the U.S. plan to install three large military bases in Salvadoran territory. According to guerrilla reports, these bases will be built in the eastern department of La Union, the central department of La Paz, and the western department of Ahuachapan.

The objective is to provide the Salvadoran Army with reinforcements, covering its rearguard with Honduran and Guatemalan troops in addition to U.S. units, the FDR president said. He reiterated that U.S. aid is preventing the collapse of the genocidal Salvadoran regime, which has actually admitted that such backing is indispensable, despite having denied it some time ago.

The course of the war in El Salvador is the best evidence of this. The current counter-insurgency offensive of the dictatorship in the northern sector of Morazan Department has turned out to be fiasco for the regime, which sent five battalions supported by scores of planes and helicopter gunships to the area. In 4 days of operations, the government troops have failed to gain any of their tactical military objectives.

Concerning the U.S. diplomatic policy in the area, Guillermo Ungo pointed out that the negotiations of U.S. envoy Richard Stone and the Bipartisan Commission headed by Henry Kissinger are nothing but a game to keep up appearances. The refusal of the Salvadoran regime to continue the talks initiated with FMLN representatives showed the dictatorship's lack of willingness to hold a dialogue. Richard Stone's decision to reject the proposals of the Salvadoran revolutionary forces in the interview held with its representatives also clearly showed the willingness for dialogue so hypocritically proclaimed by the United States to be false.

According to the WASHINGTON POST, the Kissinger Commission report recommends that the U.S. Government increase military and economic aid to the Central American regimes supported by the United States. All such diplomatic initiatives by Washington are intended to legitimize the increased U.S. intervention and a new military escalation in Central America.

COMMENTARY DECRIES SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA240351 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 23 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] After 20 months of discussion, the Salvadoran regime has enacted a new constitution. By virtue of it, the extreme righist political parties and the Christian Democratic Party, PRC, have proclaimed their presidential candidates, amid a bitter power struggle.

Jose Napoleon Duarte, candidate for the PDC, lambasted Roberto D'Aubuisson, his staunchest opponent and the candidate for the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA]. Duarte, who led the Christian Democratic Government Junta in El Salvador from 1980 to 1982, and who is responsible for the deaths of some 50,000 people, maintains that he is the candidate who can best promote and increase the already huge U.S. military aid.

D'Aubussion, who controls important economic positions in the regime, blames Duarte for El Salvador's deteriorated economy and violence, speaks of a presumed prosperity for the nation, and even dares to say that he will defend human rights. His statements preclude further comment. It is enough to recall that D'Aubuisson was a student at Washington's International Police Academy, that he is a counterintelligence specialist, that he was trained in Taiwan by U.S. advisers, and that he leads one of the terrorist bands named after Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez, the dictator who murdered more than 30,000 Salvadoran peasants in 1932.

While the PDC and the extreme rightist ARENA are engaged in campaigns to discredit one another, the National Conciliation Party, one of El Salvador's most rejected parties, proclaimed Francisco Jose Guerrero, current presidency minister, its presidential candidate. Another candidate is retired Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia.

This pre-electoral picture is similar to that which was created before the March 1982 elections in El Salvador, which did not provide a solution to the country's complex problems.

The new Constitution approved by the Salvadoran regime contains new restrictions on the already limited land reform that was implemented in El Salvador for such a short time. Article 105 of the new Constitution establishes that only 2 percent of arable land can be turned over to the peasants. The land reform plan became effective in El Salvador in 1980, in accordance with an unsuccessful plan conceived in the United States to reduce peasant support for the guerrillas. Despite its limitations, the land reform was rejected by Salvadoran rightist sectors, who first succeeded in impeding it, and who have now attained its virtual annulment in the Constituent Assembly.

The Constituent Assembly was presided over by presidential candidate Robert D'Aubuisson, directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of Salvadorans at the hands of the paramilitary groups that he leads. This whole process is a scheme to improve the genocidal Salvadoran regime's facade in an attempt to contain the political corrosion of the country's oligarchic groups. It cannot be a solution for the Salvadoran situation, because it ignores the FMLN, which is a powerful force that truly represents the interests of the Salvadoran people.

COMMENTARY ON 'CHAOS' IN GRENADA AFTER INVASION

PA251225 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] Grenada approaches 1984 plunged into an economic, political, and administrative chaos that it did not experience even during Eric Gairy's obscure dictatorship. The Yankee invasion of that small eastern Caribbean island on 25 October has left indelible signs on the hearts of the Grenadian people, who do not accept foreign neocolonial domination, even if it is masked as a provisional government. This is so to such an extent that those journalists who have had access to Grenada after the invasion stress the hold of assassinated Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's name on the local people, for his unparalleled example in the country's history will not be erased by either the Yankee occupiers or the new authorities they may appoint.

The U.S. plans in Grenada are in the initial phase. The Pentagon is taking steps to turn that island into a military and supply base which will serve as a springboard for its war-oriented adventures in Central America. It is also executing other long-term plans intended to create some type of communications and tracking base, which will enable it to control the intense maritime traffic that goes through the area.

Washington promised to reconstruct the island's economy -- which is virtually bankrupt due to the invasion -- and to promote new social development plans for the entire population, with the aid of private capital. However none of these promises have been kept. On the contrary, everything suggests a degrading of Grenada's sovereignty and an increase in the U.S. military presence at all levels of the administrative leadership.

As sources connected with the Pentagon have indicated, Washington has no plans to withdraw its troops from Grenada, feeling that without them it would be impossible to establish what it terms a western democracy.

This was confirmed this week by Colonel [name indistinct], commander of the forces that currently occupy that Caribbean island. He added that the troops that invaded Grenada guarantee western freedom. However, this western freedom does not look too good, what with the performance of the Yankee occupiers. Regardless of what the White House spokesmen may say, the truth is that the invaders have committed all kinds of abuses and arbitrary actions in Grenada.

GUATEMALA'S 'INSTABILITY' IN 1983 VIEWED

PA240241 Havana International Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 22 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Political-administrative instability and the Guatemalan Army's inability to successfully fight the guerrilla forces were the outstanding issues in Guatemala in 1983. Neither the high command nor the Guatemalan oligarchy were able to find the proper tools to implement a strategic plan that could guarantee the consolidation of their threatened hegemony. This was the reason for the failure of the plans designed for that purpose by the ruling clique in Guatemala and the United States, whose presence in that Central American country considerably increased during the past year.

The year 1983 has confirmed that application of the criminal scorched earth policy, which has been officially used throughout the country for the last 2 years, has not been able to stop increased guerrilla activity or to reduce the massive peasant affiliation with the guerrilla groups. By the same token, the emergency projects implemented in the rural parts of Guatemala were also unsuccessful, as they failed to lure the peasants into the satellite-type communities that were artifically created by the Army in parts of the country conveniently chosen beforehand. These communities, similar to the strategic villages established by the United States in its war against Vietnam, not only failed in their purpose, but boomeranged on the dictatorship, as they were condemned by progressive sectors in Guatamela and in other countries as concentration camps in which the regime intended to exterminate the rural population.

Also i 1983, the Army's massacre of the Indian population continued. Some 600 Indians were killed outright, while 800 more met a similar fate as a result of general repression throughout the country. This also produced some 1 million refugees in the country, while approximately 100,000 sought refuge in neighboring countries.

Due to the dictatorship's repeated political, military, and economic failures, the United States and certain sectors of the oligarchy and the army promoted a coup d'etat in August that overthrew General Efrain Rios Montt, who was replaced by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores. Mejia Victores acted to strengthen relations with the United States even fruther and took new steps to involve the Guatemalan Army in Yankee imperialism's political strategy in Central America. With this objective in mind, Mejia Victores' regime joined others in the area in plans to revitalize CONDECA, the Central American Defense Council, from which only Nicaragua was excluded, for the simple reason that the reactivation of that warmongering alliance is one of the aggressive steps taken by imperialism against the Sandinist revolution.

The new regime also reorganized the Army structure and commands in an effort to annihilate the guerrilla forces. New military offensives were initiated against the rebel groups, including the so-called Strength 83 [Firmeza 83] campaign, in which some 6,000 armed troops participated. None of these offensives, however, were able to stop the rebels, who increased their actions in midyear under the leadership of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity.

Another outstanding event of 1983 was the visit to Guatemala in March by Pope John Paul, who was on a tour of several nations in the area. The head of the Catholic Church met with Rios Montt and expressed his wish that peace prevail in the country.

Finally, Guatemala is nearing the end of the year in the throes of a serious economic crisis, primarily characterized by the high cost of living, an increase in unemployment, a commercial deficit, and a growing dependence on foreign markets, particularly that of the United States.

VNA NOTES SRV ECONOMIC DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE

BK231838 Hanoi VNA in English 1711 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Dec 23 -- A Vietnamese Government economic delegation led by Tran Quynh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, left Havana December 21.

While in Cuba, the delegation attended the 7th session of the Vietnam-Cuba Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. It exchanged views with leading Cuban officials on measures to promote bilateral cooperation, especially in agriculture, foreign trade, post service, and public health. The Vietnamese guests toured various economic, scientific and technical establishments in Havana and on Youth Island.

They were seen off at Jose Marti Airport by Joel Domenech, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, vice president of the Council of Ministers and head of the Cuban Government economic delegation; Faure Chomon Mediavilla, member of the C.P.C. C.C. and ambassador to Vietnam; Manuel Torrez, vice chairman of the State Committee for Economic Collaboration; and Hoang Luong, Vietnamese ambassador to Cuba.

RAUL CASTRO NOTES VIETNAM ARMY'S ANNIVERSARY

FL261430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Hanoi media today made public the message that Army General Raul Castro, FAR minister, sent to Van Tien Dung, his Vietnamese counterpart, on the 39th anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army.

The message expressed support and encouragement for new succcesses and a wonderful future for the Vietnamese People's Armed Forces, while it also stressed commitment to the happy outcome of fraternal friendship between the two brother countries.

CARICOM SEEKS EXPLANATION ON DOMINICA-GUYANA RIFT

FL231247 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The secretary general of the Caribbean Community, Caricom, has sent a letter to the Guyanese Government seeking an explanation for Guyana's trade dispute with fellow Caricom member Dominica. Roderick Rainford sent the letter at the request of Dominica's Prime Minister Maria Eugenia Charles.

Mrs Charles publicly criticized Guyanese President Forbes Burnham for opposing the joint U.S.-Caribbean intervention in Grenada and she accused Mr Burnham of leaking word of the invasion to Grenada's Marxist rulers. Guyana responded by refusing to honor a contract to export rice to Dominica and refusing to accept the shipment of soap from that island nation.

BARBADOS

GOVERNOR GENERAL SUPPORTS GRENADA ACTION

FL261237 Bridgetown CANA in English 1836 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 25 (CANA) -- The United States-led military intervention in Grenada last October saved people on the neighbouring island from "virtual slavery," Barbados Governor General Sir Deighton Ward indicated today. In his Christmas message, Sir Deighton said the Barbados Government's decision to side with other Caribbean countries in calling for Washington to send troops to Grenada was one of which Barbadians could be proud. The troops toppled a military junta which had taken over from slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in the midst of feuding in the ruling party between moderates and hardline communists.

Sir Deighton said: "We can truly be thankful and proud of the courageous and historic decision taken by our government in conjunction with the Government of Jamaica, at the request of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, to invite the United States of America to join with them in leading a rescue mission to save the people of Grenada from virtual slavery, and this despite the fact of almost universal international adverse criticism."

Sir Deighton also touched on Barbados' economic situation and the problems that dogged trade in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom). He said: "We can be truly grateful that the dark, ominous economic clouds which darkened the skies of our expectations and aspirations are slowly but surely fading away, and this notwithstanding the strain and stresses which the Caricom entity and inter-regional trade is presently experiencing. We can be truly thankful that civil dissention has not reared its ugly head in our community and that the spirit of good will still pervades over daily actions." Sir Deighton added: "We can be truly thankful that our nation is still entitled to be looked on as a Christian and law-abiding community."

GRENADA

SIR PAUL ON ISLAND'S UNITY AFTER INVASION

FL261249 Bridgetown CANA in English 1850 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 25 (CANA) -- Grenada has never been more united than it is now, Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon said today. Sir Paul's comment came two months after U.S. troops landed here to topple a military junta that had taken over from slain leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

"I have scarcely known our country to be more united than it is at present," Sir Paul said in a broadcast. It is for us by our diligence and vigilance to sustain this unity in the spirit of understanding and forgiveness in order to build together a brighter tomorrow for the benefit of all Grenadians." He called on Grenadians to "pledge your hearts and minds and hands to this worthy goal," adding, "Grenada must be Grenadian if we are to preserve our unity and uphold our national pride."

Sir Paul appealed to parents, teachers, and youth workers to re-dedicate their lives to the service of young people. "If you fail to give our young people honest leadership, if you do not show them the way forward to self-reliance, respect for human life, respect for people's property, respect for law and order, if you do not impress upon them the importance of human dignity, by your neglect or by our bad example you would be helping to create division in the home, chaos in the schools, and unending trouble in our society," he said.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC PROGRAM

FL241730 Bridgetown CANA in English 1705 GMT 24 Dec 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 24 (CANA) -- Grenada's five-week old interim government, which says it has less than a year in office, last night announced a broad economic programme designed "to set the stage for the economic development of the country." In his first address to the nation since his appointment two weeks ago as chairman of the nine-member Advisory Council, Nicholas Brathwaite said the non-partisan administration would put emphasiss on job creation, maximising the island's foreign exchange earning capacity, and keeping down the national debt.

Brathwaite also announced plans to upgrade Grenada's infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to rehabilitate the small, declining sugar industry, and to provide about 100,000 square feet of factory space on proposed industrial estates for local and foreign investors.

Noting that the one-year allocated to the council for administering Grenada was too short to achieve much, the chairman said: "We shall endeavour to at least set the stage for the economic development of the country." The council was appointed by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon following the October 25 U.S.-led military intervention. It will rule Grenada until elections can be held next year.

In his 24-minute address, Brathwaite said the caretaker administration would seek to bring about "a drastic and immediate reduction" in unemployment levels by creating self-sustaining employment opportunities. He indicated that as far as possible, emphasis will be placed on getting persons who were displaced from their jobs by the closure of government programmes following the invasion back on the employment market through these programmes. The ousted People's Revolutionary Government earlier this year put the country's unemployment figure at around 14 per cent.

Brathwaite said the interim government would move to increase public sector savings while de-emphasising the need to increase taxation. He also said the government would seek funding from "friendly" countries and international agencies to complete the half-built Point Salines International Airport, seen by officials as a key to Grenada's future development. This project was being aided substantially by Cuba. But since the intervention Cuban construction workers have returned to Havana.

The government will also be seeking international assistance for a project to construct feeder roads, provide credits for inputs and farm improvements, marketing facilities and a self-liquidating machinery pool, and for upgrading the fishing and farming industries, Brathwaite said. "We shall also seek technical assistance for dispensing of institutions and for the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies," he said.

Brathwaite announced that the government would be looking to strengthen bridges, sea defence walls, and retaining walls destroyed by prolonged rainfall and the lack of maintenance. On development projects for the Grenada ward islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique, the Advisory Council chairman said attention would be given to programmes in the area of road construction as well as in the supply of electricity and water. Brathwaite said the interim government would attempt to improve Carriacou's small airport and terminal building. It also plans to construct a new jetty, provide a new telephone system, and build a 45-bed hospital on the island.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ASKED TO EASE VISA RULES

FL241616 Bridgetown CANA in English 1540 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 24 (CANA) -- Grenada's caretaker government has asked Trinidad and Tobago to urgently reconsider its visa requirement for Grenadians, the state-owned Radio Grenada reported. The radio said the visa issue was one of the issues discussed during talks in Port-of-Spain last Wednesday between officials of the two governments.

The radio said that the Grenada delegation, which was headed by Arnold Cruickshank, the interim government spokesman on agriculture and industrial development, told the Trinidad and Tobago delegation that the visa requirement was posing difficulties to Grenadians. Trinidad and Tobago stipulated that Grenadians acquire visas after the bloody military coup last October 19, in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed. It was a part of a number of measures, some of which have been lifted, imposed by the Port-of-Spain government to punish the military rulers who were ousted six days later by U.S.-led forces. Trinidad and Tobago is 90 miles south of here.

Radio Grenada said the Grenada delegation requested the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to reconsider the basis on which the visa requirements were imposed in light of "the changed circumstances in Grenada consequent on the establishment of the Advisory Council as the interim Government of Grenada."

"The delegation of Grenada emphasised that this matter was, in view of the interim government, a critical issue which required urgent attention, including some mechanisms for the early alleviation of the present situation. The delegation of Grenada expressed the hope that the visa requirement would be fully removed in the near future," it added.

The radio quoted the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago as saying that the neighbouring island understood the problem and the need for urgent responses and agreed with Grenada that all efforts would be made to have responses to all its requests early in the new year. "It was also felt that it would be helpful in the light of the foregoing for a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago to visit Grenada in the near future," it added.

The Grenada delegation, the radio said, also brought Trinidad and Tobago up to date on developments here since the U.S. invasion and the measures being taken by the interim government towards reconstruction. In this regard, it said, Grenada requested technical and economic cooperation assistance from Port-of-Spain in such areas as legal affairs. It stated that Trinidad and Tobago was asked to provide the island with personnel on temporary assignment in the fields of planning and legal affairs under the Commonwealth-Caribbean technical assistance programme. There were also requests, the radio reported, for counterpart financing in respect of infrastructural development projects currently underway here, and assistance under Trinidad's Caricom (Caribbean Community) Oil Facility.

UK ENVOY ON STRENGTHENING DIPLOMATIC MISSION

FL231403 Bridgetown CANA in English 1340 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Britain has strengthened its diplomatic presence in Grenada, increasing the number of its staffers from one to five in the wake of last October's military coup and the subsequent U.S.-led invasion to crush the uprising.

But Barbados-based British High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean Giles Bullard said that the mission here would continue to fall under the Bridgetown operation. Asked at a news conference whether there were any plans for a full-scale British high commissioner here, Bullard said "the strengthening of our small office here is obviously a first step."

Britain, he said, planned to secure more office space for its mission here and would from the New Year take up most of the St George's building it now shares with the Organisation of American States.

Says Airport Will Not Get Aid

FL231638 Bridgetown CANA in English 1445 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Britain would not consider Grenada's half-built international airport "a suitable project for aid" if asked, Commissioner Giles Bullard said here yesterday. But he made it clear to newsmen that no request had been made by Grenada's interim government for assistance to complete the 71 million dollar (U.S.) project which had been financed largely by Cuba. "It's a hypothetical question and it's really hard to answer ...but I would guess that we as a government would want to look very carefully at the financial outlay and at the likely profits from an airport before we came up with a yes or no," he added.

Construction work on the airport project was halted following the October 25 U.S.-led multinational invasion to topple a military junta that had seized power here six days earlier in a coup in which leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others were killed. Hundreds of Cubans who formed the main corps of construction workers have since been flown back to Havana and diplomatic relations with the Castro regime sealed down.

The airport had for some time been at the centre of a diplomatic controversy between the United States and Grenada, with Washington fearing it would be used by Havana to facilitate its military exploits in Africa. The left-leaning Greanda Government of the late Mr Bishop consistently denied the charge and said the airport was vital to bringing more tourists to the scenic island, thereby spurring economic development.

According to Mr Bullard, the British firm Plessey Airports Limited which was installing navigational airport equipment under a 26.4 million-dollar (one E.C. dollar; 32 cents U.S.) line of credit was still interested in completing its work on the project. Plessey, Bullard said, was in the midst of a study to determine whether it would be in a position to put forward proposals and estimates for finishing its work on the project.

JAMAICA

SEAGA ON IMF LOAN PACKAGE, ECONOMY OUTLOOK

FL231854 Bridgetown CANA in English 1810 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Jamaica and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have not yet concluded negotiations for a new 15-month balance of payments support loan, and talks on the package are to resume in January, Prime Minister Edward Seaga has disclosed.

Seaga had earlier this month said that negotiations for the standby credit facility, expected at 180 million U.S. dollars, should have been completed by December 22 for an agreement to come into force on January 1. But he told journalists at a luncheon he hosted yesterday that there had been delays and that negotiations are likely to be completed soon after their restart in the new year.

The prime minister said, however, that Jamaican Central Bank officials and the IMF's technicians had reached "complete understanding on all major areas of the agreement," and that only final details were to be worked out. Seaga said that the package had been sent to the IMF's managing director, Jacques de Larosier, and barring objections on his part, which Jamaican negotiators did not anticipate, the agreement should go to the Fund's governing council in February.

Seaga did not say what had caused the delay in concluding the negotiations. Financial observers here said that the hold-up could put back a formal signing until April. Although the winter tourist season will be in progress and there are high earnings projected from the sector, the delay in the IMF agreement, the observers say, could conceivably cause problems with the country's foreign exchange flows early in the new year.

Jamaica was forced into negotiations with the Fund for a standby credit after the IMF insisted that last September's performance criteria, under a three-year extended fund facility, had not been met. The 650-million-U.S.-dollar agreement was in its last months when abandoned. An early consequence of the new package was a 43-per cent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar last month.

Seaga told the journalists that except for bauxite/alumina which declined this year, there were positive movements in all sectors of the economy. The government, he said, was expecting economic growth of 1.1 per cent against the three per cent decline that was projected.

Will Honor Democracy, Constitution

FL261229 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 25 (CANA) -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga today renewed a pledge to honour the spirit of democracy and the intention of the Constitution despite being in total control of Parliament because of a recent election boycott by the main opposition party.

Seaga, in a Christmas message, acknowledged Jamaica's deep economic difficulties that have hit people's pocketbooks here, but stressed that there were no miracle solutions, only hard work.

Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) gained all 60 seats in the House of Representatives -- 54 of them without a ballot being cast -- when the People's National Party decided to stay out of the December 15 general election, protesting the absence of government's promised electorate reforms.

"The spirit of our democracy and the intention of our Constitution will be fully honoured in the new dispensation which we are entering in this temporary phase of our Parliament's history," the prime minister declared. Seaga, who now has the right to name the senators who would normally have been chosen by the opposition leader, has said that he will appoint people of high esteem and integrity and not aligned to his party.

He also had announced plans to allow individuals or groups to address Parliament on issues before it in which they have an interest, and his JLP parliamentarians will operate in a totally nonpartisan manner in the constituencies. The JLP's name is to be even removed from the constituency offices. These things, the prime minister said in his message, were intended "to heal and not widen divisions, to take the nation a further step to greater unity of purpose."

Seaga said that he was aware that many Jamaicans would not be enjoying the material things associated with Christmas for "we have had a hard year and money is short in many households." Added the prime minister: "I cannot promise you that there are any miracles on the horizon. All our gains have to be won by hard work. But faith in our country's future has been restored by the hard work that has gone into the programmes and the rebuilding of the past three years (of JLP rule). Foundations have been laid which justify hope."

Names 12 Ministers

FL232357 Bridgetown CANA in English 2013 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Sticking to a promise to reduce the size of his government, Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga today named a total of 12 ministers of state and parliamentary secretaries, halving the number in the previous administration. The greatest reduction was among parliamentary secretaries who now total three as against the former 13. The number of ministers of state was brought down to nine from 11.

Seaga's Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) was returned to power virtually unopposed in general elections on December 15, which were boycotted by the main opposition People's National Party (PNP).

Among the ministers of state are a number of portfolio shifts and promotions, while at the parliamentary secretary level there are a number of newcomers to the government, including Babsy Grange, the former acting director of the Cultural Development Commission, who has been appointed a senator.

Following is the full list of ministers of state and parliamentary secretaries with their previous functions in parentheses:

Ministers of State
Enid Bennet -- Local Government
Dr Marco Brown -- Tourism
Dr Neville Gallimore -- Foreign Affairs
Mike Henry -- Office of the prime minister with responsibility for information (Tourism and Information)
Tony Johnson -- Agriculture (Industry and Commerce)
Karl Samuda -- Industry and Commerce (Parliamentary secretary health)
Brascoe Lee -- Agriculture (Parliamentary secretary)
Kingsley Sangster -- Youth and Community Development (Parliamentary secretary)
Bobby Marsh -- Construction

Parliamentary Secretaries
Horace Chang -- Health
Keith Russel -- Youth and Community Development
Senator Babsy Grange -- Office of the prime minister with responsibility for culture.

Irvine Named to New Position

FL231740 Bridgetown CANA in English 1717 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Jamaica, with the help of UNESCO, is embarking on a long-term programme of training in science and technology, according to new Minister of Environment, Science, and Technology Dr Ronald Irvine.

"Traditionally, Third World countries such as ours have had no science and technology base, and are therefore at the mercy of developed countries," Dr Irvine told an awards function of the Scientific Research Council Thursday. "For the next 20 years Jamaica will have to depend on imported technology until it builds its own base," he said. Irvine said that this would come about through training and research and said the government was receiving assistance from UNESCO (the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Prime Minister Edward Seaga, naming this new cabinet this week, created Jamaica's first full Ministry for the Environment, Science, and Technology. Such matters previously came under the prime minister's office, and were generally looked after by Dr Irvine who was a minister without portfolio.

Dr Irvine said that development of an indigenous science and technology base in Jamaica should have been addressed in the 1960's. "Having neglected to do this, we will now have to start a programme that will put Jamaica in the arena of more developed countries and make us the envy of Third World countries," he said. In pursuit of this goal, the minister said, it was necessary for the ministerial functions for science and technology to be joined with that of the environment. "While we are attending to scientific research and development we must look at how research and development encroaches on the environment," he said. "The environment is a most important heritage which we must preserve."

CUBANS REPORTEDLY SABOTAGE MANLEY AIRPORT

FL261845 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Four saboteurs who struck at Norman Manley International Airport on Wednesday night damaged equipment on the tarmac belonging to Air Jamaica. One man who was held by security personnel at the airport claimed he was a Cuban national. The other three men escaped in a car.

As a result of the incident, the police commissioner, Mr Joe Williams, has stepped up security at airports throughout the island and a special squad has been put in place at Norman Manley Airport to strengthen security there.

A statement from the Police High Command said that at around 8 pm on Wednesday a young man who claimed to be a Cuban national was held at Norman Manley Airport after he had driven a powered unit [as published] damaging the telescopic lift which carries provisions to the planes, the gangway, the air-starter unit, and the water truck. Three other persons who were reportedly acting together with him sped from the scene in a motor car.

The man who was held gave his name as Baro Sotomajor. He is in police custody undergoing "intensive interrogation," a police report said. The police said efforts were being made to find out more about the man's identity and the motive for his action. During preliminary interrogation he had given conflicting reports about the dates, reason, and circumstances of his entry into Jamaica. One of the stories he gave the police, the GLEANER understands, was that he and other Cuban nationals left Cuba in a boat for Miami on Tuesday. He did not say what happened to the other Cubans or how he got to Jamaica.

The police are also investigating how the saboteurs breached the airport security and got into the restricted ramp area.

The man who was held had a Jamaican passport on him issued in Miami which bore a name different from the one he gave to the police. The visa in it was withdrawn by the U.S. authorities.

As a result of the damage to the equipment, three Air Jamaica flights had to be delayed. Some of the equipment damaged is new and was recently acquired by Air Jamaica. They have been removed from the tarmac to the lighthouse some distnace away.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GRENADA ADMINISTRATION SEEKS GRANT, LOAN

FL231936 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim administration is seeking a grant or loan of the equivalent of 10 million E.C. dollars (one EC dollar, 37 cents U.S.) from the Trinidad and Tobago Government, the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN reported today. The paper, which did not give the source of its story, said the money is wanted for financing road building, fisheries, water and bridge development projects.

The GUARDIAN said the aid request was made by a three-man Grenada delegation which held talks with top government officials here last Wednesday. The Grenada delegation was headed by Arnold Cruickshank, Advisory Council member responsible for agriculture.

The team held talks on cooperation in technical and economic areas and was also seeking a lifting of the Trinidad and Tobago requirement for visas for Grenadians wishing to visit here. The GUARDIAN said the delegation also sought beneficiary status under Trinidad's oil facility -- a credit scheme for Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries purchasing this country's crude -- and raised the question of Trinidad and Tobago supplying asphalt estimated at some 1.5 U.S. million dollars for completion of the airport at Point Salines, being considered for approval under the oil facility.

PRIME MINISTER ON GRENADA, OTHER TOPICS

FL261731 Bridgetown CANA in English 1713 GMT 26 Dec 83

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 26 (CANA) -- Guyana's Prime Minister Dr Ptolemy Reid has said that the October events in Grenada must teach Guyanese "the wisdom" of ridding themselves of conflict and promoting greater national unity. He was referring in a Christmas message broadcast yesterday to the October 19 military coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was executed and to the U.S.-led military intervention six days later.

"Recent events in...Grenada, where they had chosen a socialist path, must teach us the wisdom of ridding ourselves of conflict and prompt greater unity since internal disunity was used as a pretext for a long planned invasion," Reid said.

Bishop's assassination followed a bitter leadership feud between himself and his ex-hardline deputy, Bernard Coard, for control of the left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM). Guyana strongly condemned the U.S.-led intervention in the fellow Caribbean Community (Caricom) member country.

The Guyana prime minister said in a world plagued by military conflicts in so many areas, Guyanese were living in peace "despite the annoying activities of some criminal minded among us...(and) the experience of some of our people of grievious exploitation... Reid said the "turbulent" events elsewhere in the world "cannot but convice us that we must never allow our country to be controlled as it was in colonial times."

He told Guyanese that those who control their tastes control their minds and enslave their bodies. With this in mind, he added, Guyanese have to keep their right to life from being snapped away by starvation and famine. "We have learnt not to panic and yield to the savage hunters for human minds whose fearful roars bear down on us through international propaganda and gunboat aggression," Reid said.

The Guyana Prime Minister said Guyanese should "thankfully" reflect on the fact that they were now making maximum use of local foods, instead of having to rely on imports of apples, grapes, pears, and preserved foods. Because of a severe foreign exchange shortage, Gyyana has banned the importation of a wide range of foodstuffs and has been emphasizing the use of local substitutes. Included on the list are preserved fruit, mainly used in the making of pastries, cheese, and split peas.

EIGHT ARRESTED IN ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST BURNHAM

FL231949 Bridgetown CANA in English 1957 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Toronto, Canada, Dec 23 (CANA) -- The CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY has just been informed that Canadian police have arrested eight men in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the Government of Guyana. The announcement of the arrest was made by the Ontario police and broadcast over radio here.

It is being alleged that the men were purchasing arms and ammunition to arm a 20-man hit squad whose task was to assassinate Guyanese President Forbes Burnham and seize power from his People's National Congress (PNC) government.

Further on Arrests

FL232215 Bridgetown CANA in English 2209 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Toronto, Canada, Dec 23 (CANA) -- Canadian police today reported they uncovered a plot to violently overthrow the Guyana Government and said eight people involved in the conspiracy were now under arrest. The eight -- seven Canadian citizens and one from the U.S. -- are facing several arms charges including conspiring to possess prohibited weapons.

An Ontario provincial police statement said the arrests culminated an intensive two-month probe into alleged criminal activity of certain members of the Conservative Party of Guyana, which has headquarters at Mississauga on the outskirts of Toronto. A police spokesperson told how members of the party were detained by undercover officers posing as gangsters who sold them weapons and ammunition. The weapons were to be shipped from the United States to Guyana, concealed in new furniture. The weapons, including machine guns and grenade launchers, were to be used by a 20-man hit squad assigned to kill Guyana President Forbes Burnham and key ministers and take over the government of the South American, English-speaking Republic.

The police spokesperson, Constable Virginia Aitchison, said the party members promised the undercover agents special privileges in Guyana if the coup was successful. Members of the party, she said, placedan order for four M-60 machine guns, 12 M-16 machine guns, six grenade launchers, eight Ingram machine guns with silencers, four AR-15 machine guns and 20 Smith and Wesson 9-mm automatic pistols with silencers.

The arrests resulted after members of the party took delivery and paid for the weapons in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S., on Wednesday afternoon. The U.S. Customs Service Office of Enforcement in Cleveland collaborated in the two-month probe. Five Ontario residents and the sole U.S. resident in the group were arrested in Cleveland. The other two, both Ontario residents, were arrested in Mississauga. All eight were believed to have originated from Guyana.

Burnham Comments

FL240046 Bridgetown CANA in English 2350 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 23, (CANA) -- The Guyana Government said tonight its security forces were investigating a plot to overthrow it that was uncovered by Canadian police. "All I can say at this moment is that the matter is being dealt with by the security forces," President Forbes Burnham told CANA. Canadian police said today they had arrested eight people -- seven Canadian citizens and one from the United States -- in connection with the alleged plot to kill Burnham and other key ministers and take over the government of the English-speaking South American Republic. The men were said to have connections with a hitherto unknown Conservative Party of Guyana that has headquarters at Mississauga on the outskirts of Toronto and opposes communism. They are facing several arms charges including conspiracy to possess prohibited weapons.

Havana On Arsenal in Canada

PA250337 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] It was announced in Ontario that the Canadian police detained a group of individuals who were trying to send weapons to Guyana for use in overthrowing President Linden Forbes Burnham. The arsenal that was seized by the Canadian police, which included M-16 rifles, grenade launchers, pistols, and ammunition, was to be used to kill Burnham and other government leaders.